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THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!

APPROVED
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SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG

Back to School!



SEGA®



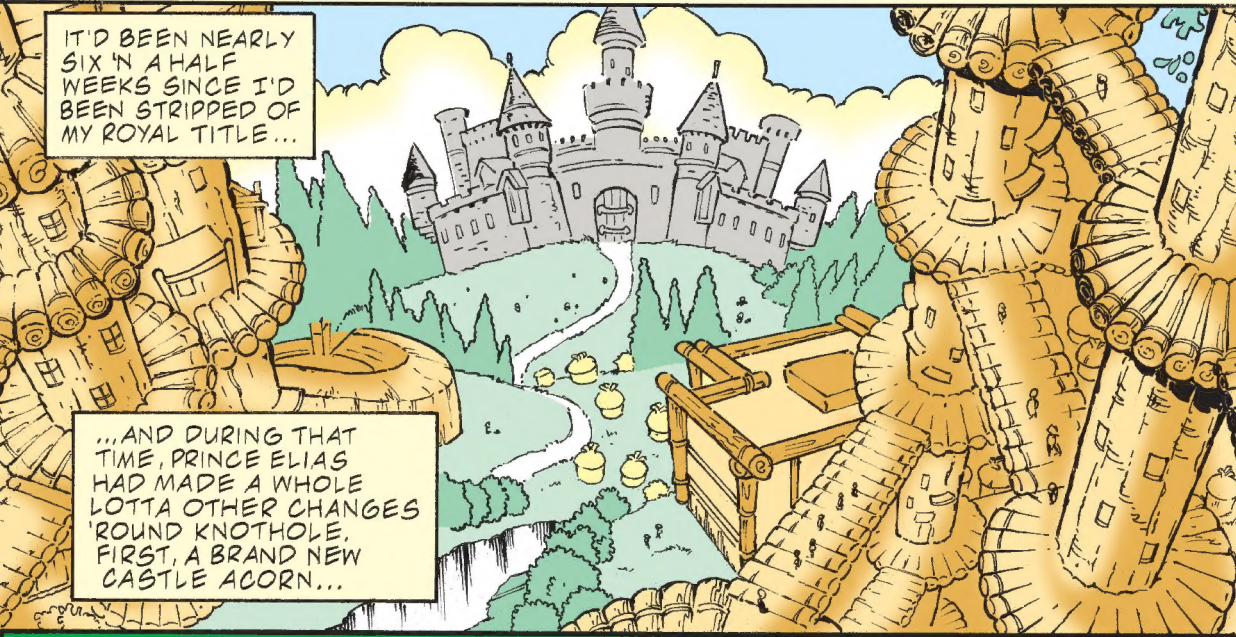
KNOTHOLE
HIGH SCHOOL
DEADWOOD EAST TOWN WILY



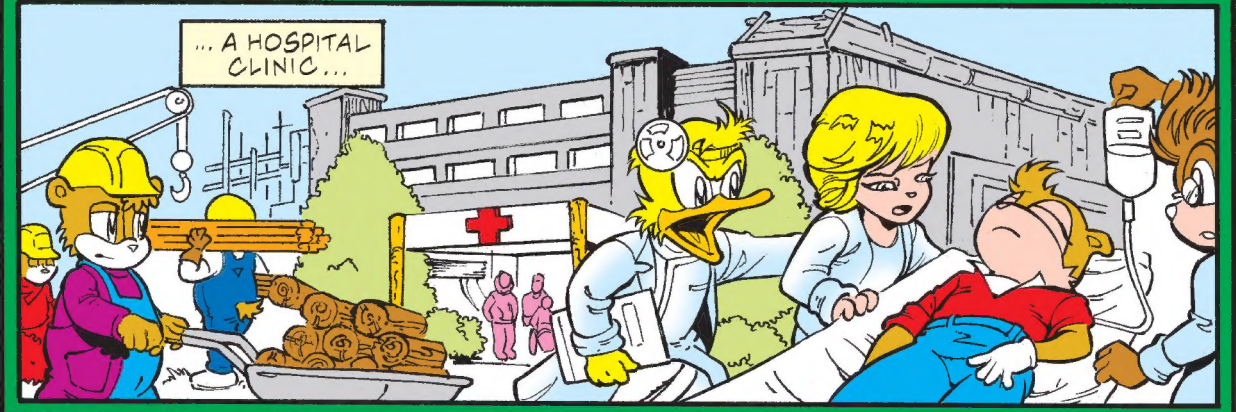
After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his polluted factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

IT'D BEEN NEARLY SIX 'N A HALF WEEKS SINCE I'D BEEN STRIPPED OF MY ROYAL TITLE ...

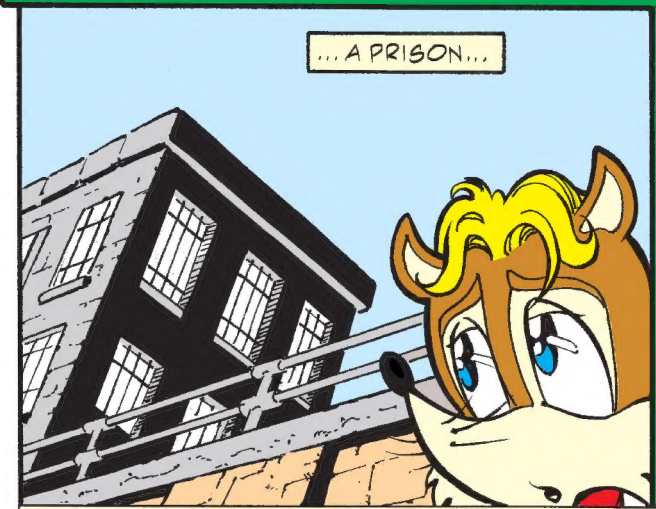
...AND DURING THAT TIME, PRINCE ELIAS HAD MADE A WHOLE LOTTA OTHER CHANGES 'ROUND KNOTHOLE. FIRST, A BRAND NEW CASTLE ACORN...



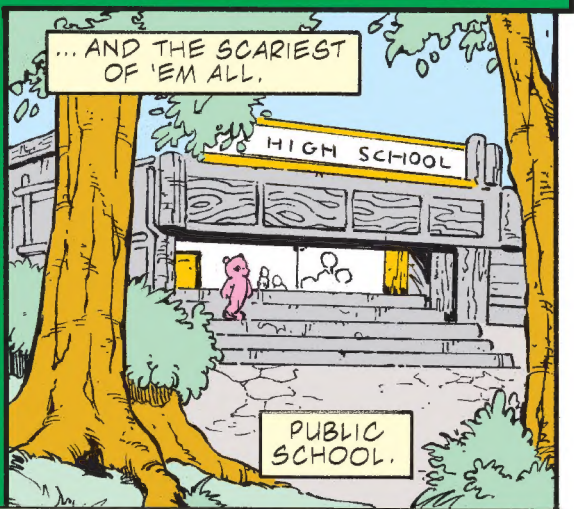
... A HOSPITAL CLINIC ...



... A PRISON ...



... AND THE SCARIEST OF 'EM ALL.



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (ISSN:10705090), No. 94, Apr., 2001. Published every 4 weeks, twice in May by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies \$1.99 in the U.S.; \$2.39 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. \$25.87 for 13 issues; \$31.07 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. © SEGA CORPORATION 2001. All Rights Reserved. SEGA, DREAMCAST, the Dreamcast logo, Sonic The Hedgehog, and all related characters are trademarks or registered trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION or its affiliates. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America Dreamcast, Inc., P.O. Box 7639, San Francisco, CA 94120-7639. www.sega.com Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada

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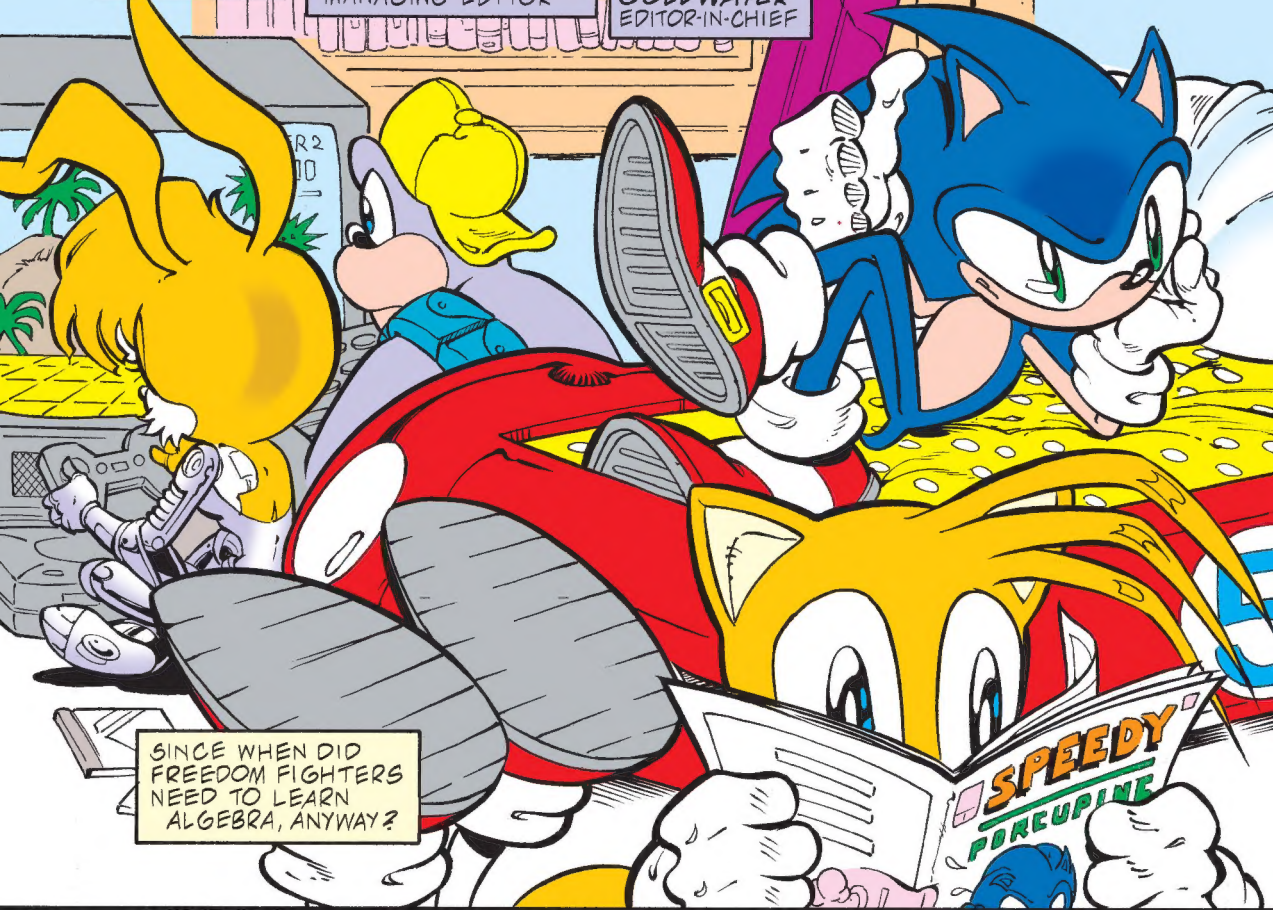
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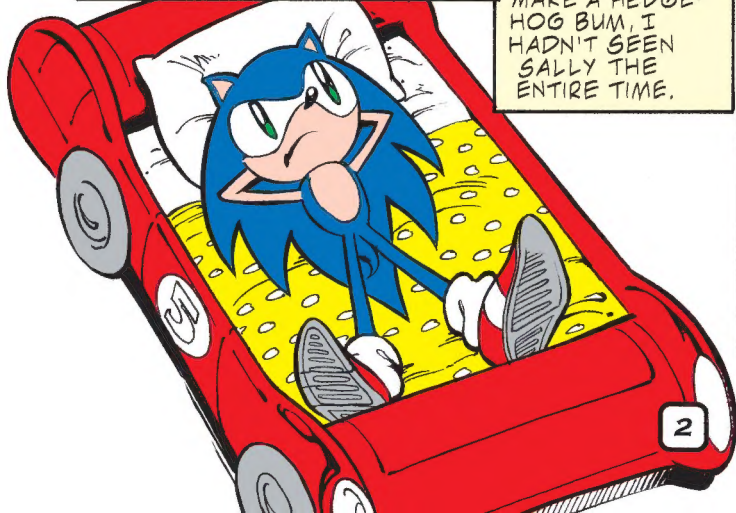
SINCE WHEN DID FREEDOM FIGHTERS NEED TO LEARN ALGEBRA, ANYWAY?

GUESS WE WEREN'T FREEDOM FIGHTERS--NOT ME, ANYWAY. 'SPECIALLY SINCE I WAS NOT TO LEAVE THE 'HOLE ANYMORE.

AS IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH TO, LIKE, TOTALLY MAKE A HEDGE-HOG BUM, I HADN'T SEEN SALLY THE ENTIRE TIME.

BUNNIE SAID--

DON'T SWEAT IT! TOMORROW IS THE FIRST DAY O' CLASSES AND SHE'S BOUND TO BE THERE, SUGAH-HOG!



STILL I WONDERED
WHAT SHE WAS DOING
RIGHT THAT VERY
MOMENT...

LET'S SEE...
PENCILS...NOTEBOOK
...RULER...HUH?
WHAT'S THIS?

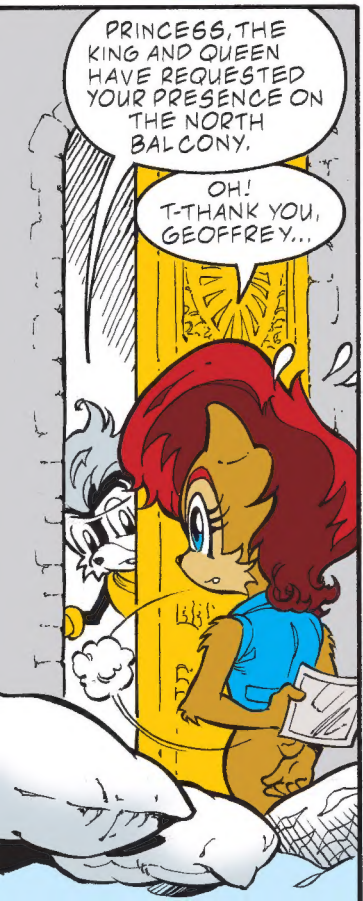


MY OH SO BRAVE
HEDGEHOG... I'VE BEEN
SO OVERWHELMED WITH
FAMILY AFFAIRS THESE
PAST WEEKS THAT--



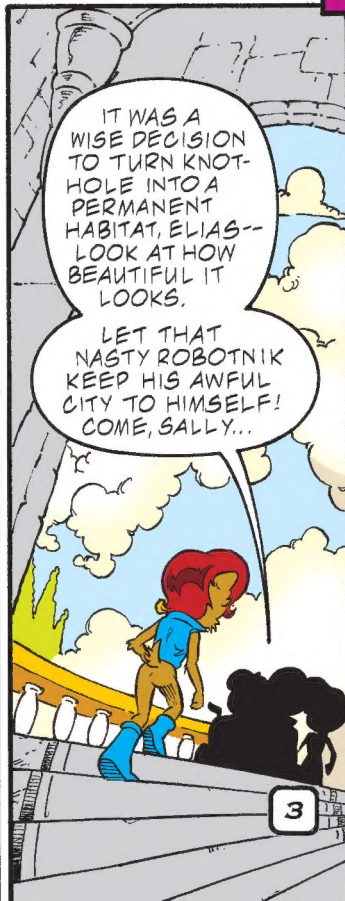
PRINCESS, THE
KING AND QUEEN
HAVE REQUESTED
YOUR PRESENCE ON
THE NORTH
BALCONY.

OH!
T-THANK YOU,
GEOFFREY...



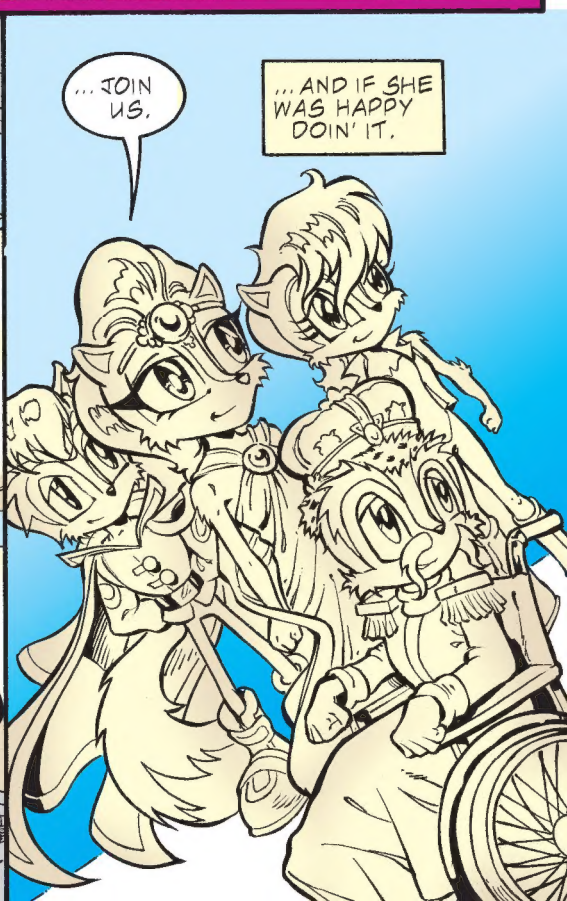
IT WAS A
WISE DECISION
TO TURN KNOT-
HOLE INTO A
PERMANENT
HABITAT, ELIAS--
LOOK AT HOW
BEAUTIFUL IT
LOOKS.

LET THAT
NASTY ROBOTNIK
KEEP HIS AWFUL
CITY TO HIMSELF!
COME, SALLY...



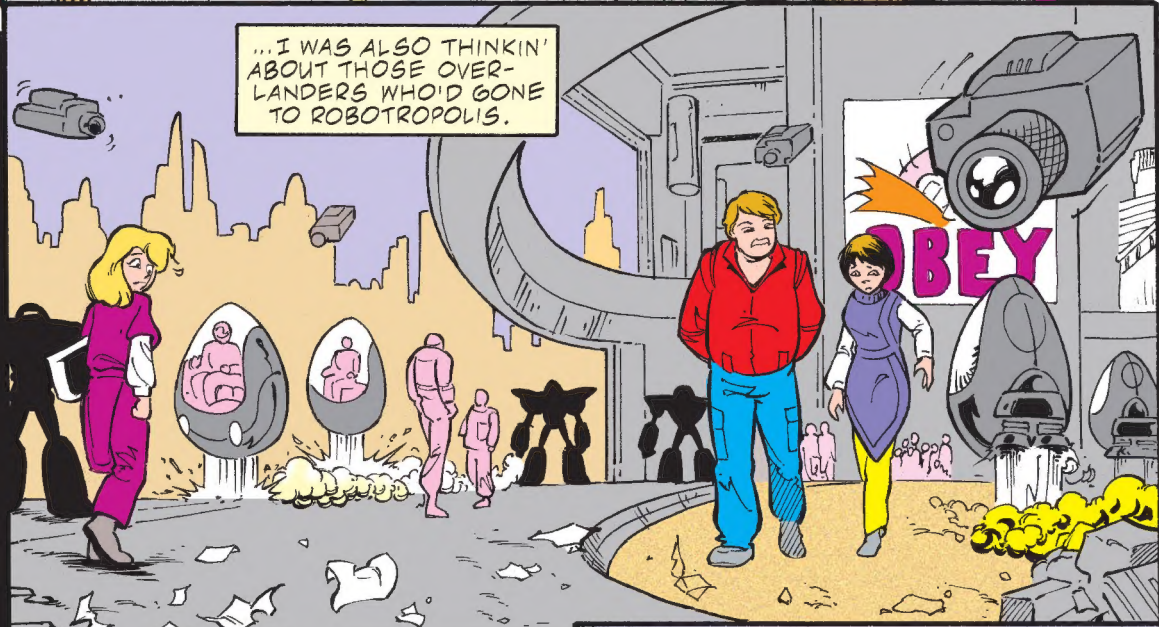
...JOIN
US.

... AND IF SHE
WAS HAPPY
DOIN' IT.





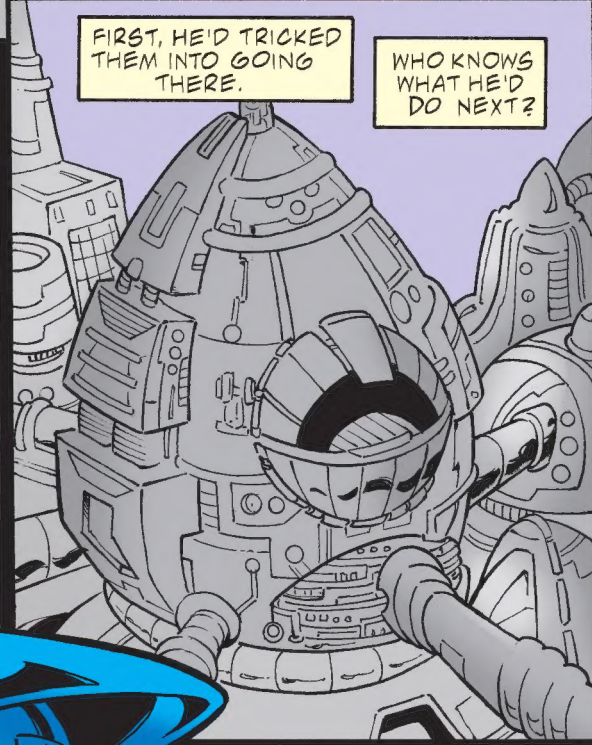
BUT, I HAD TO BE HONEST...



...I WAS ALSO THINKIN' ABOUT THOSE OVER-LANDERS WHO'D GONE TO ROBOTROPOLIS.

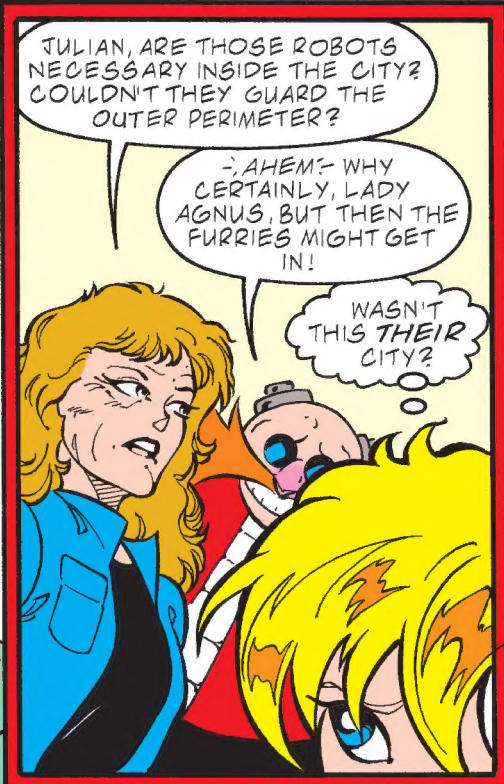
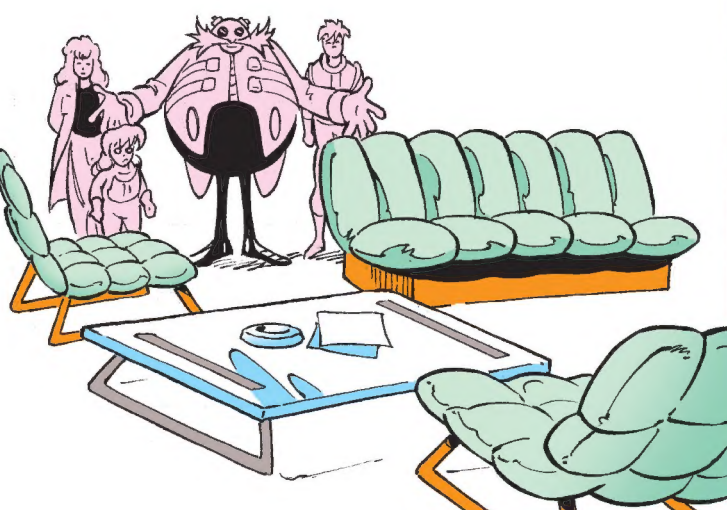
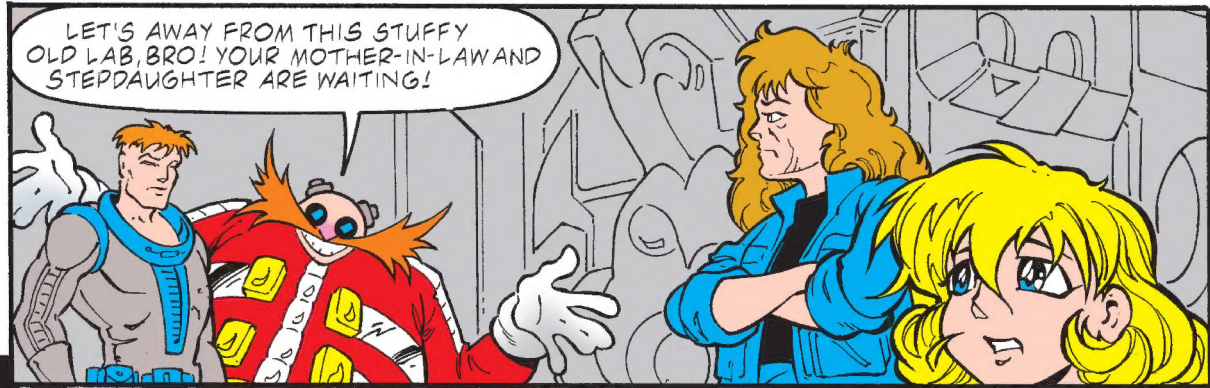
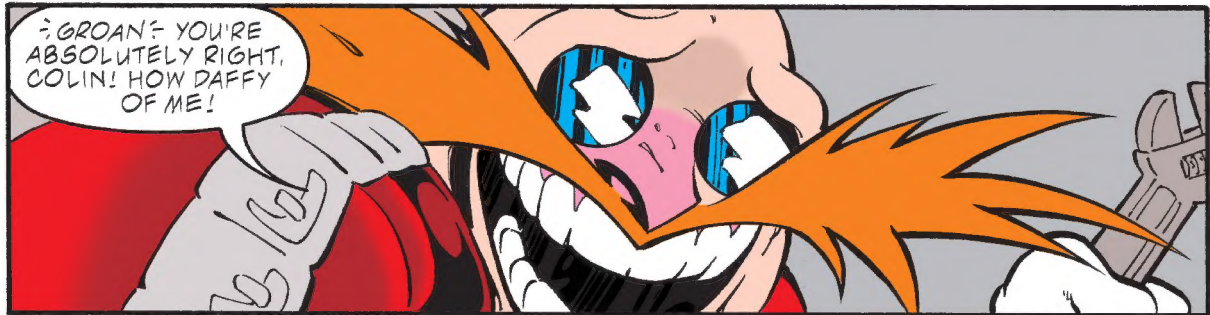
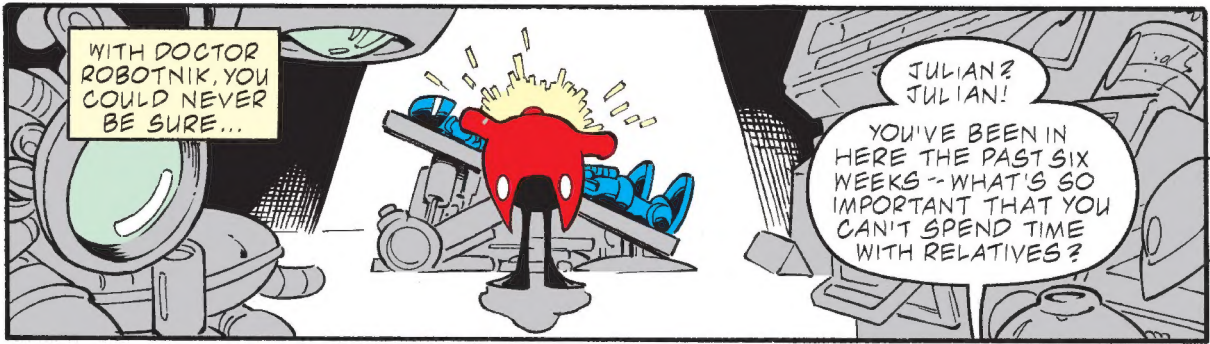


THE TIME IS NOW 8:45 PM--THREE THOUSAND SECONDS TO CURFEW.



FIRST, HE'D TRICKED THEM INTO GOING THERE.

WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'D DO NEXT?





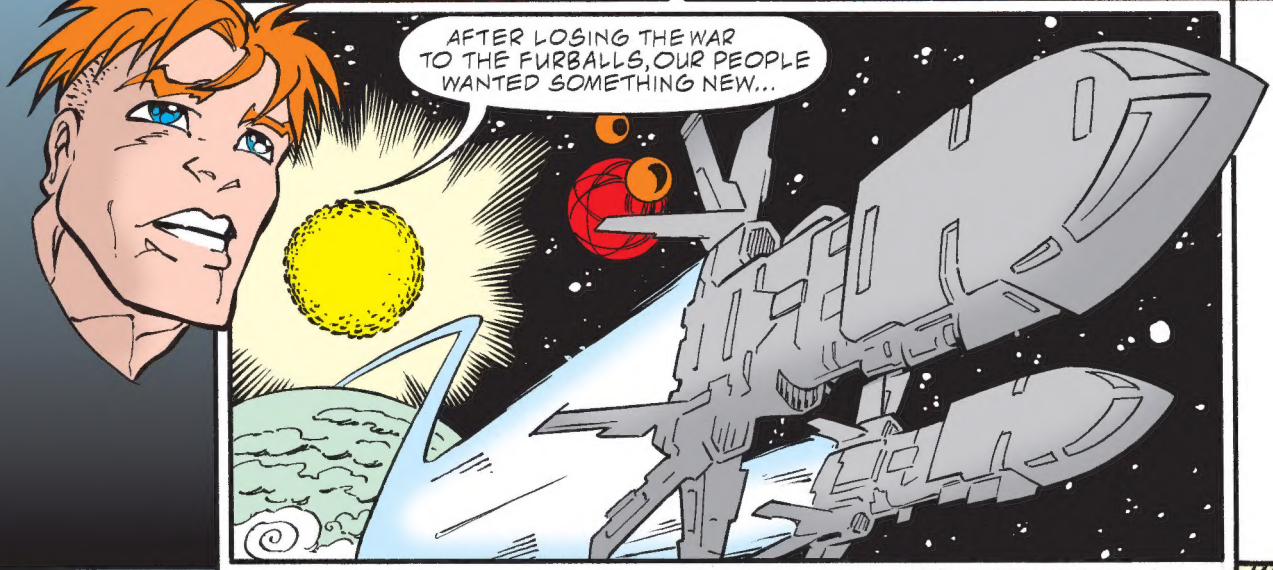
JULIAN, YOU'VE CHANGED SO MUCH SINCE THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU...

WELL, I ER...

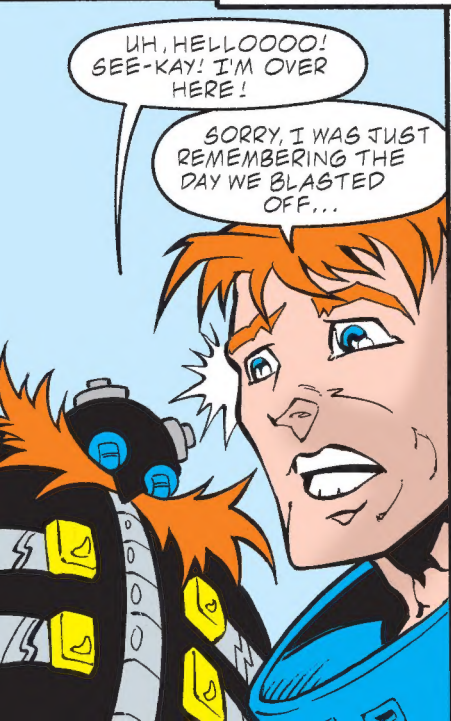


AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE, I SENTENCED YOU TO TEN YEARS IN PRISON. I WAS OBVIOUSLY IN ERROR-- YOU'RE A DIFFERENT PERSON.

UH... YES. BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, COLIN? WHY WERE YOU IN OUTER SPACE?

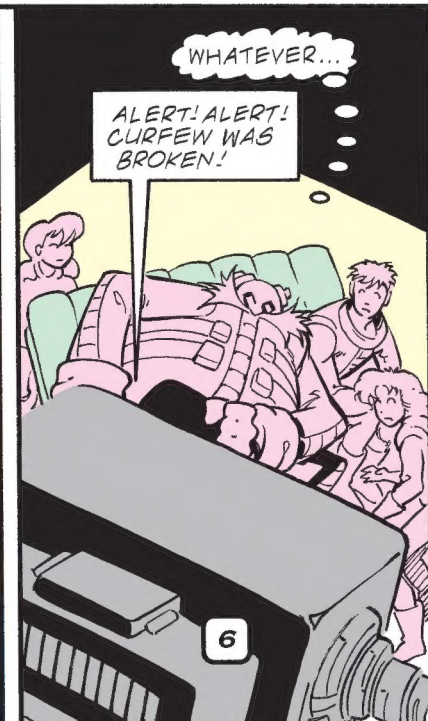


AFTER LOSING THE WAR TO THE FURBALLS, OUR PEOPLE WANTED SOMETHING NEW...



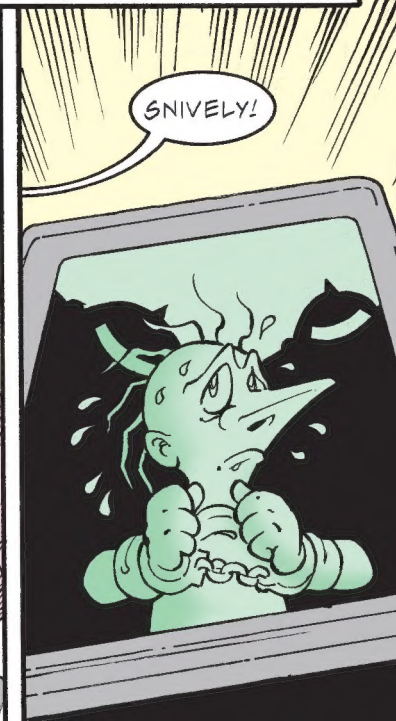
UH, HELLOOOO! SEE-KAY! I'M OVER HERE!

SORRY, I WAS JUST REMEMBERING THE DAY WE BLASTED OFF...

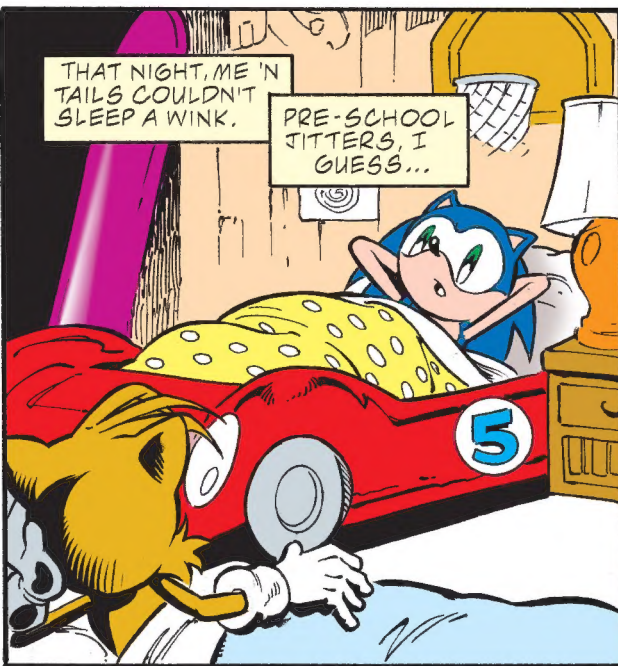


WHATEVER...

ALERT! ALERT! CURFEW WAS BROKEN!

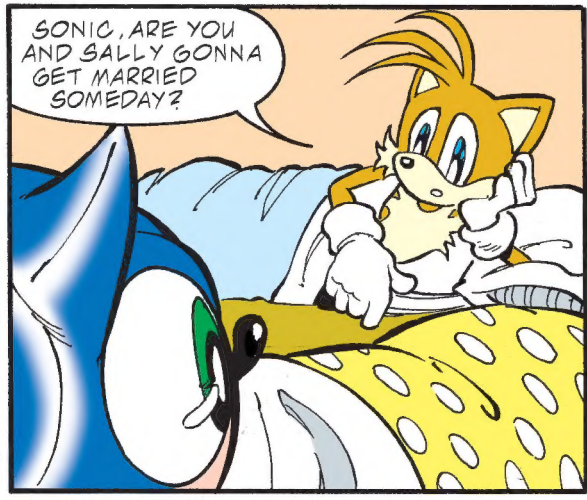


SNIVELY!



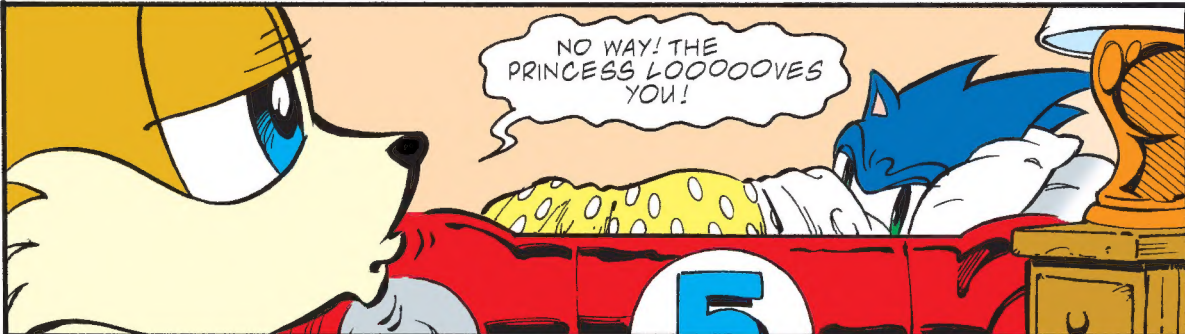
THAT NIGHT, ME 'N TAILS COULDN'T SLEEP A WINK.

PRE-SCHOOL JITTERS, I GUESS...

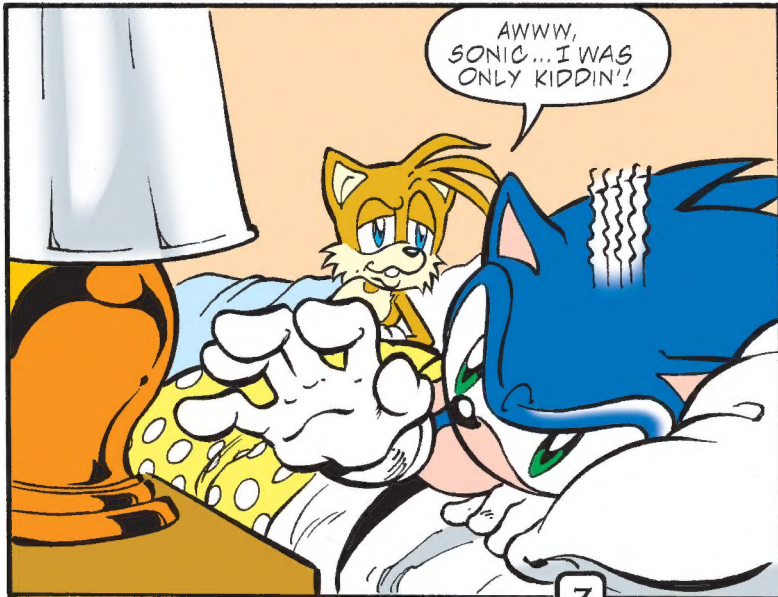


SONIC, ARE YOU AND SALLY GONNA GET MARRIED SOMEDAY?

HAVEN'T REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT. 'SIDES, WE'RE WAAAAAY TOO YOUNG TO TIE THE KNOT... AND SHE PROBABLY HATES ME ANYWAY...



NO WAY! THE PRINCESS LOOOOOVES YOU!



AWWW, SONIC... I WAS ONLY KIDDIN'!



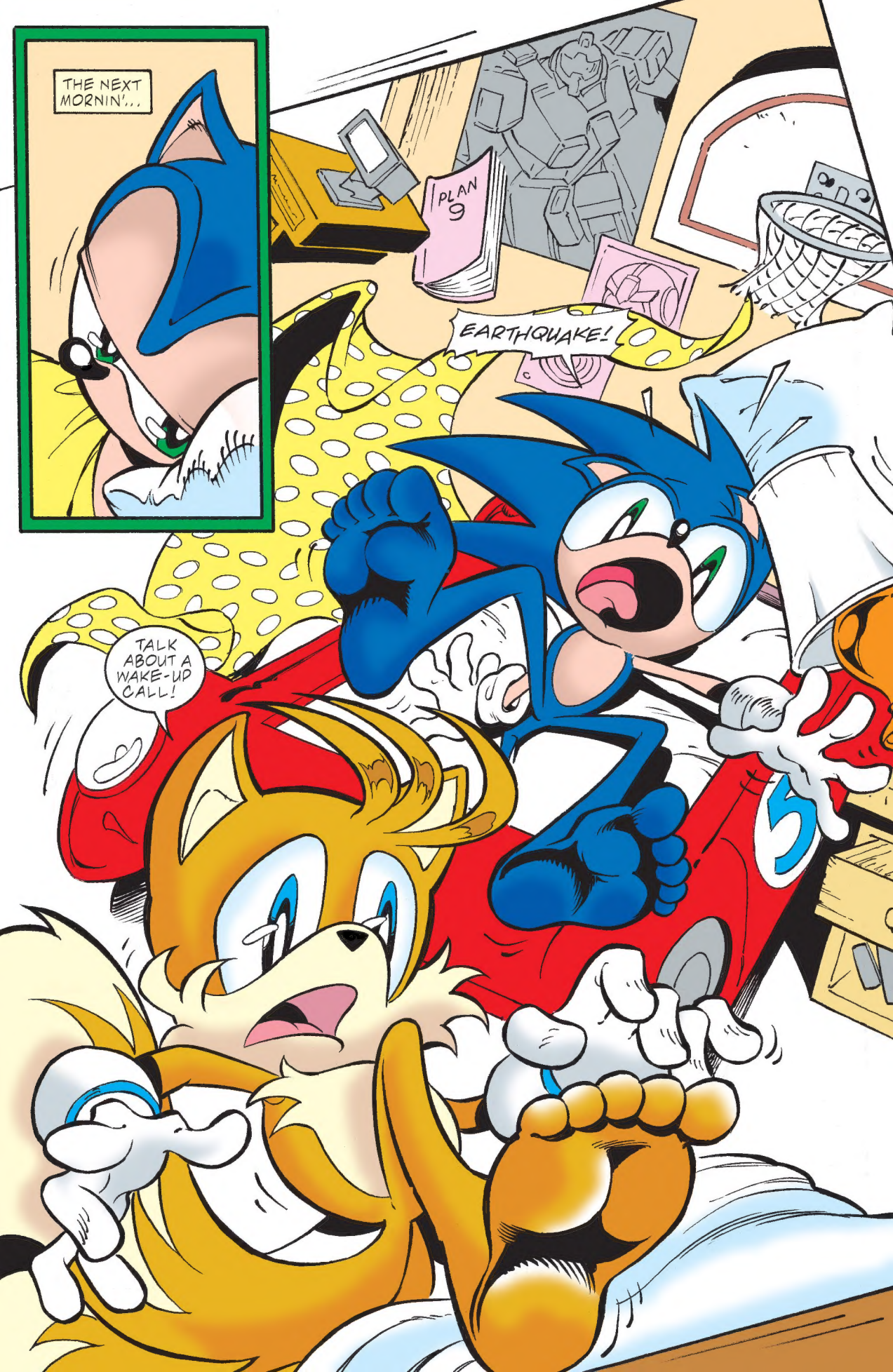
G'NIGHT, BUD.

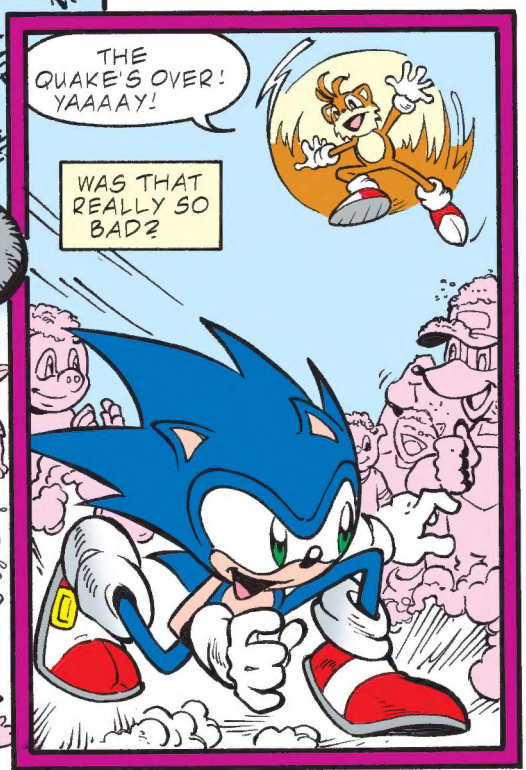
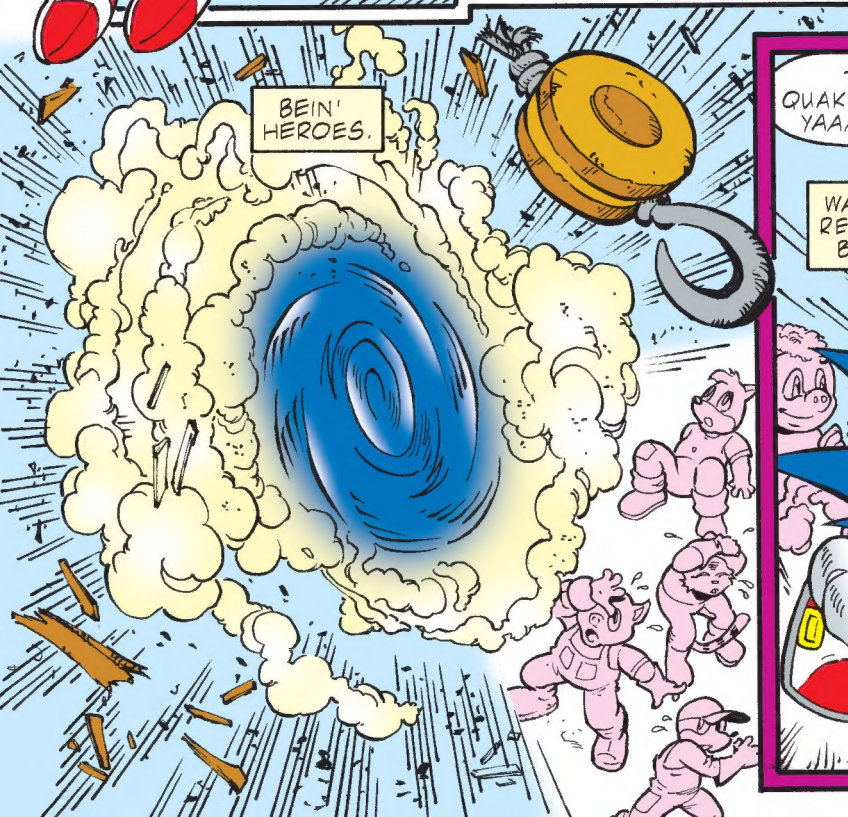
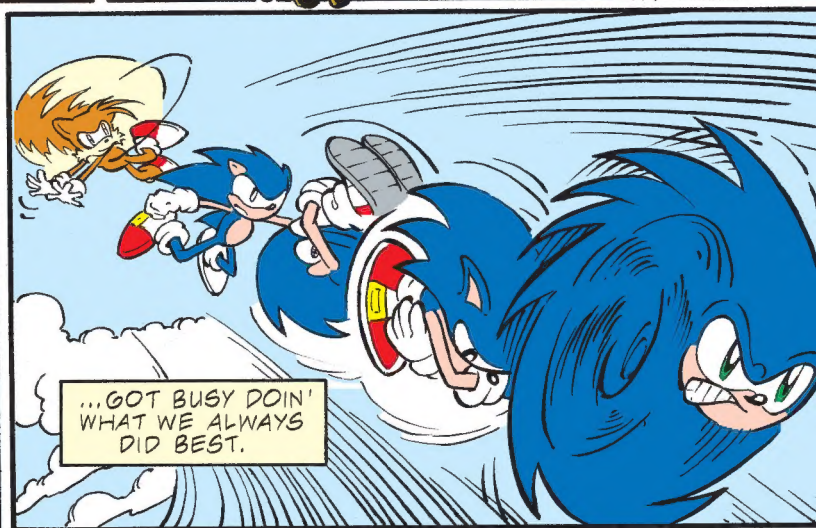
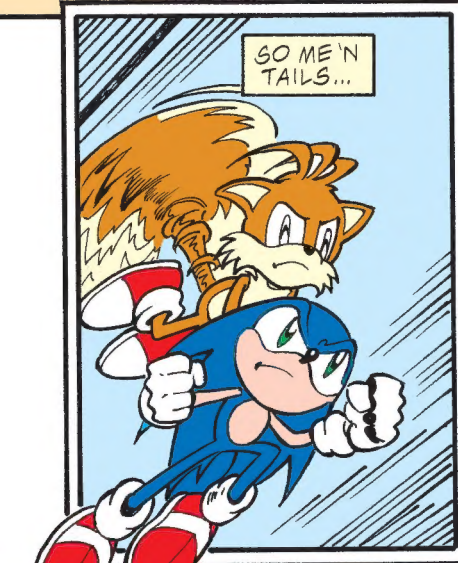
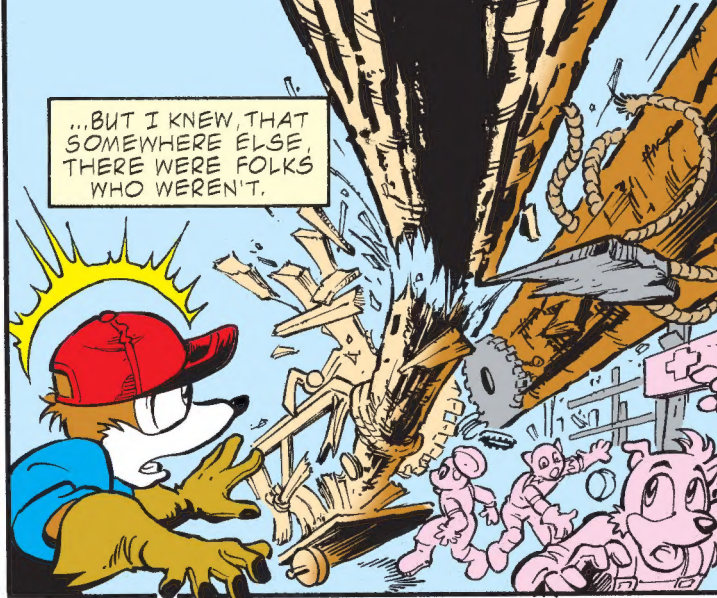
THE NEXT MORNIN'...

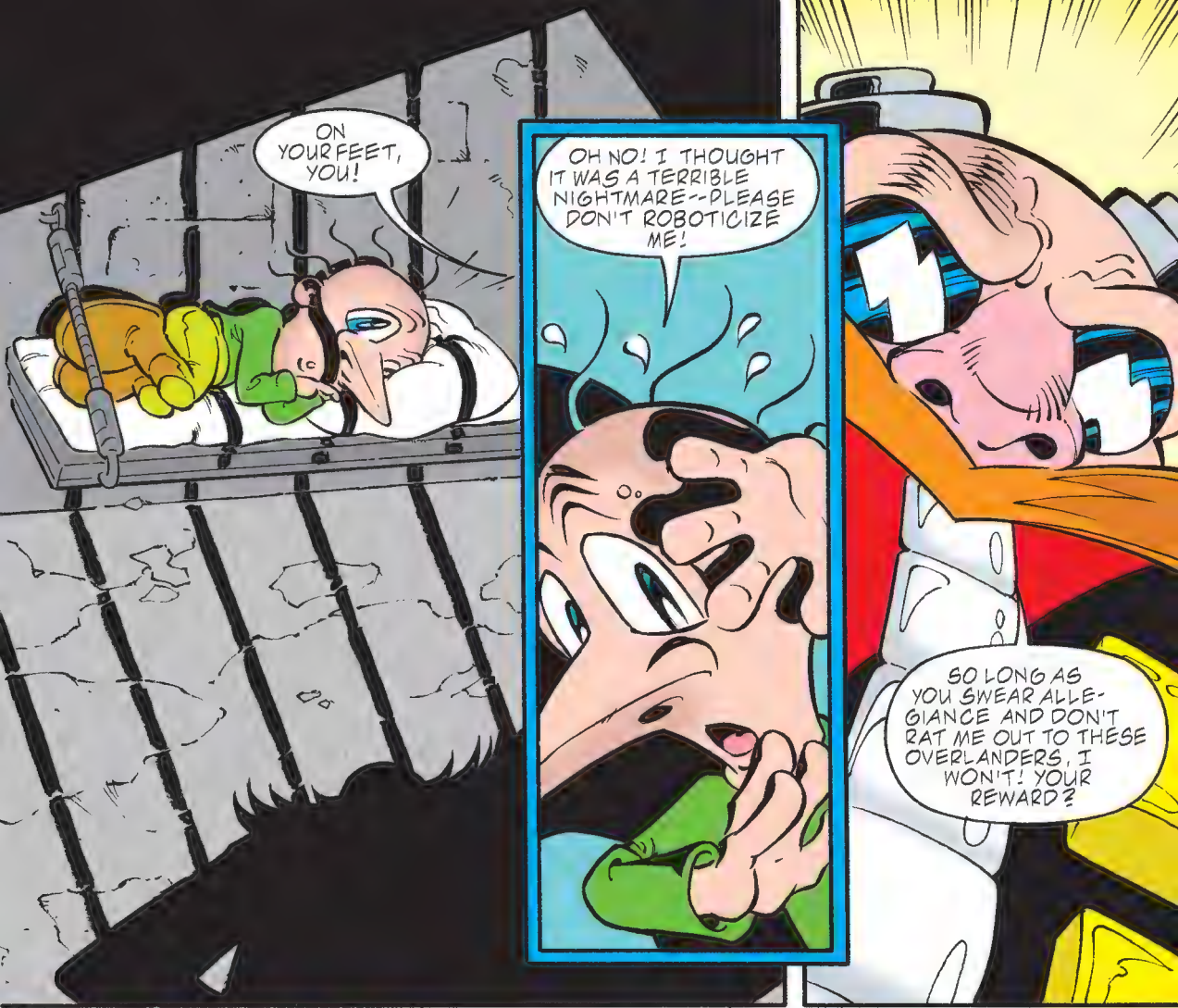
PLAN 9

EARTHQUAKE!

TALK ABOUT A WAKE-UP CALL!



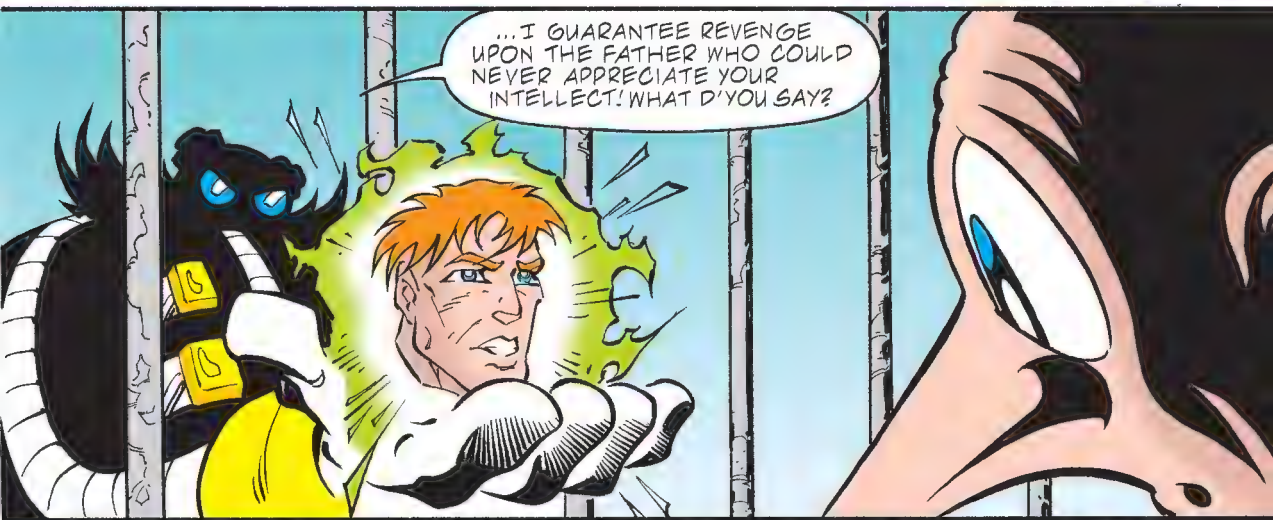




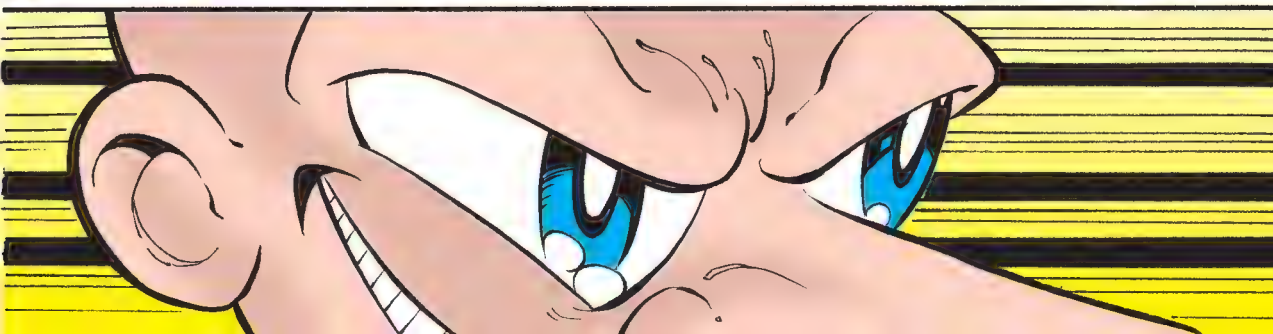
ON YOUR FEET, YOU!

OH NO! I THOUGHT IT WAS A TERRIBLE NIGHTMARE--PLEASE DON'T ROBOTICIZE ME!

SO LONG AS YOU SWEAR ALLEGIANCE AND DON'T RAT ME OUT TO THESE OVERLANDERS, I WON'T! YOUR REWARD?

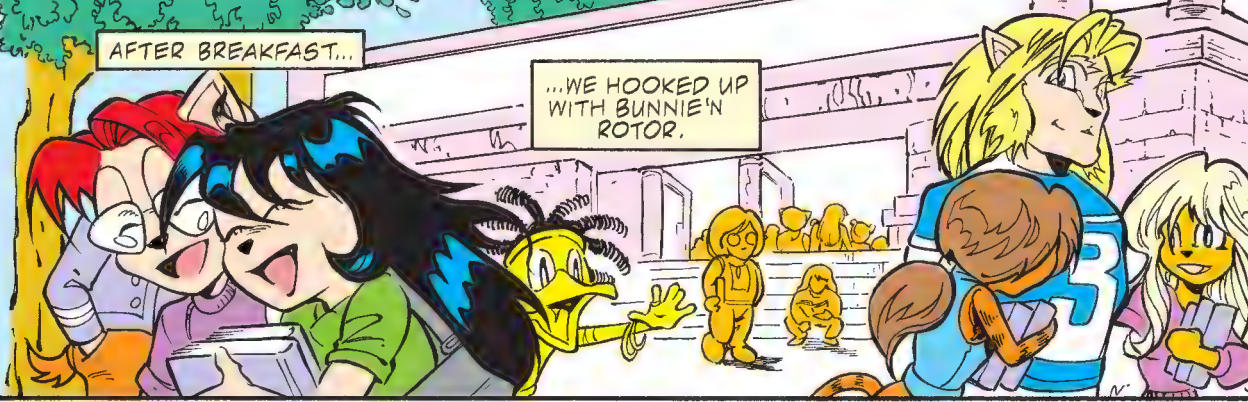


...I GUARANTEE REVENGE UPON THE FATHER WHO COULD NEVER APPRECIATE YOUR INTELLECT! WHAT D'YOU SAY?



AFTER BREAKFAST...

...WE HOOKED UP WITH BUNNIE 'N ROTOR.

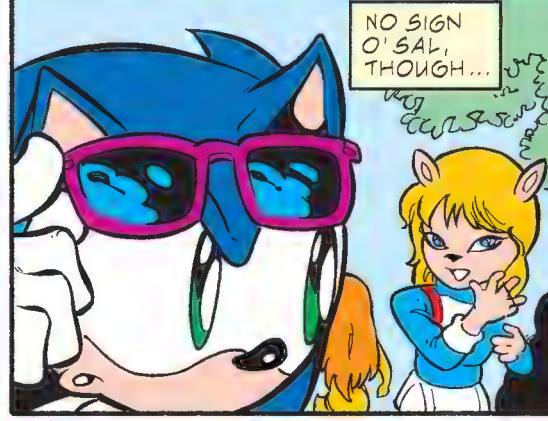


WE'RE, LIKE, SO DIGGIN' THE NEW DO, HOME GIRL!

THANKS Y'ALL!



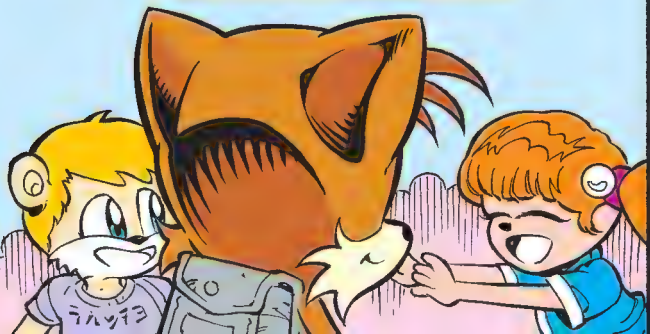
NO SIGN O' SAL, THOUGH...



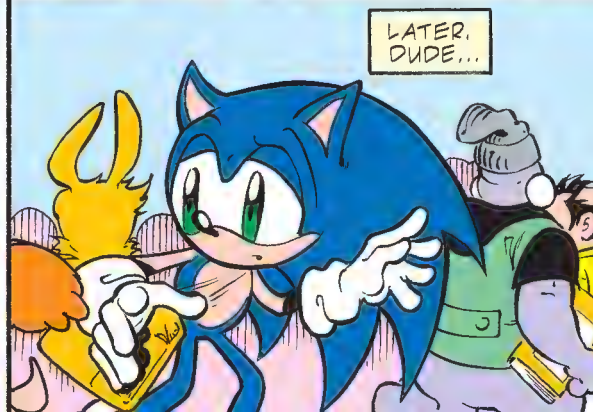
...AND BEFORE I COULD FIND OUT WHY NOT, THE PRINCIPAL SHOWED UP...

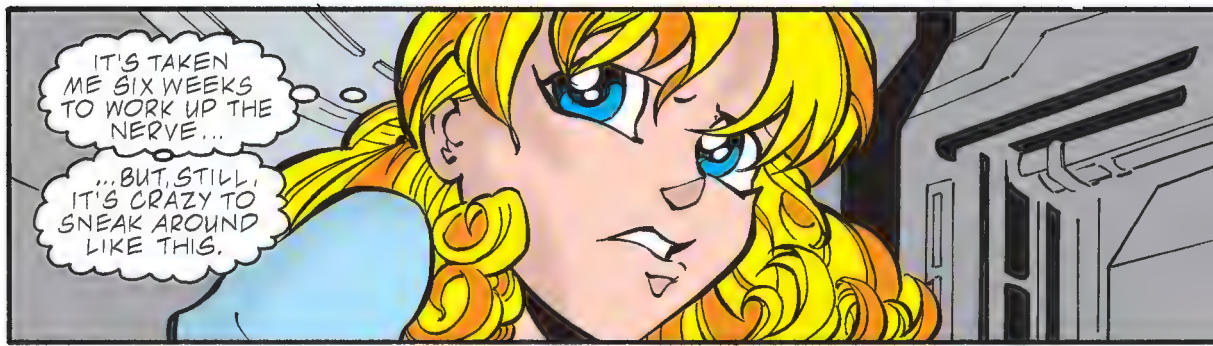


...TO SPLIT US KIDS UP ACCORDIN' TO OUR AGES.

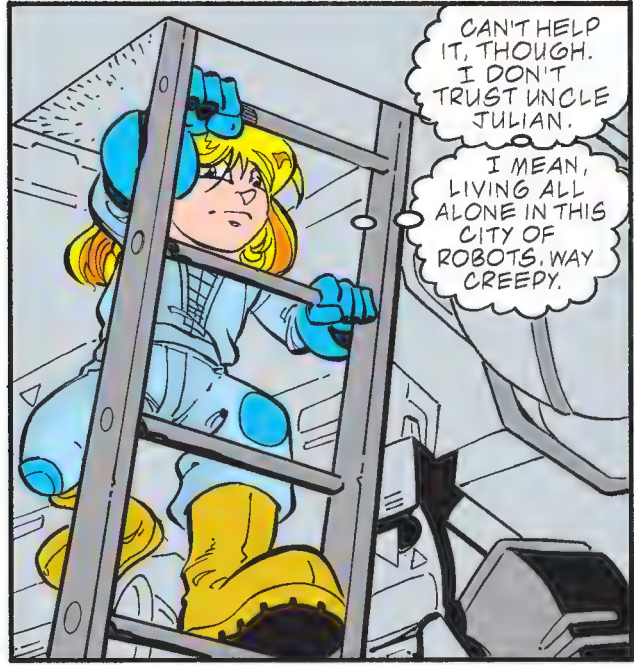


LATER, DUDE...

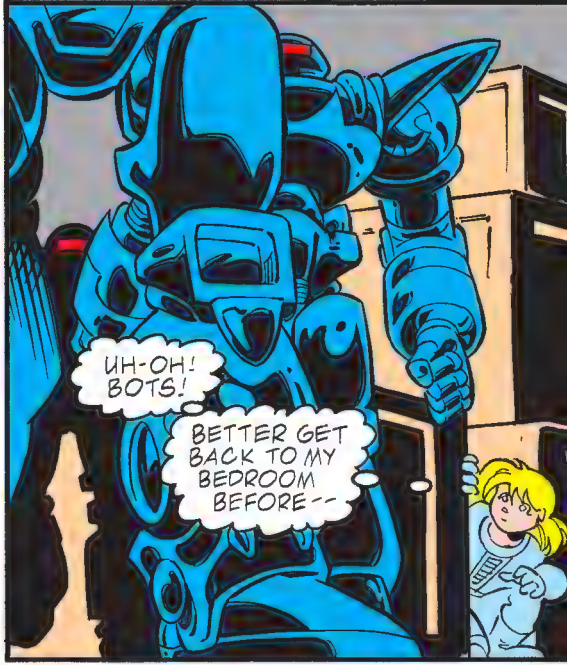




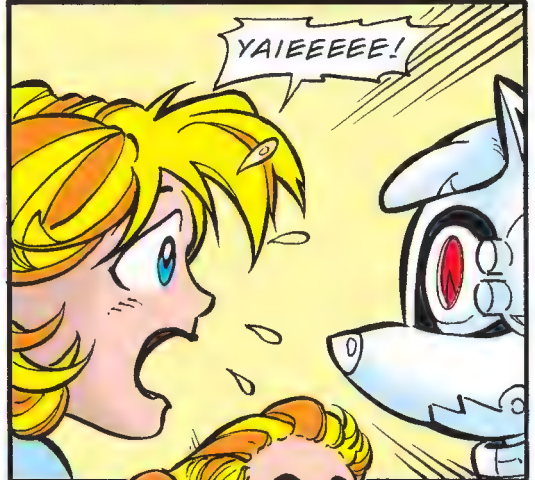
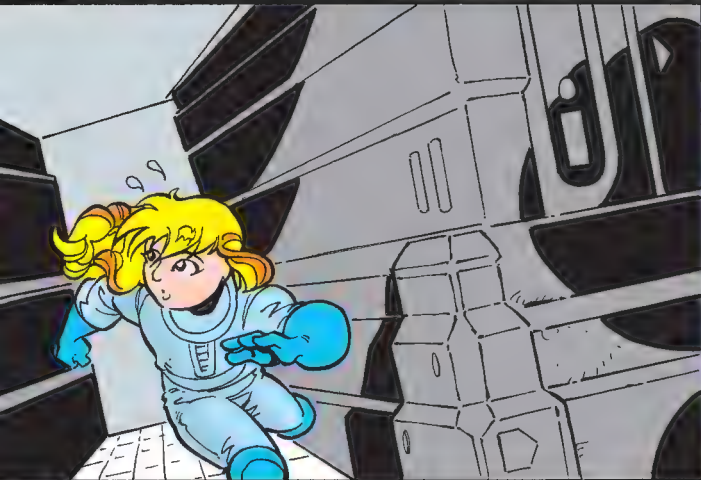
IT'S TAKEN ME SIX WEEKS TO WORK UP THE NERVE...
...BUT, STILL, IT'S CRAZY TO SNEAK AROUND LIKE THIS.



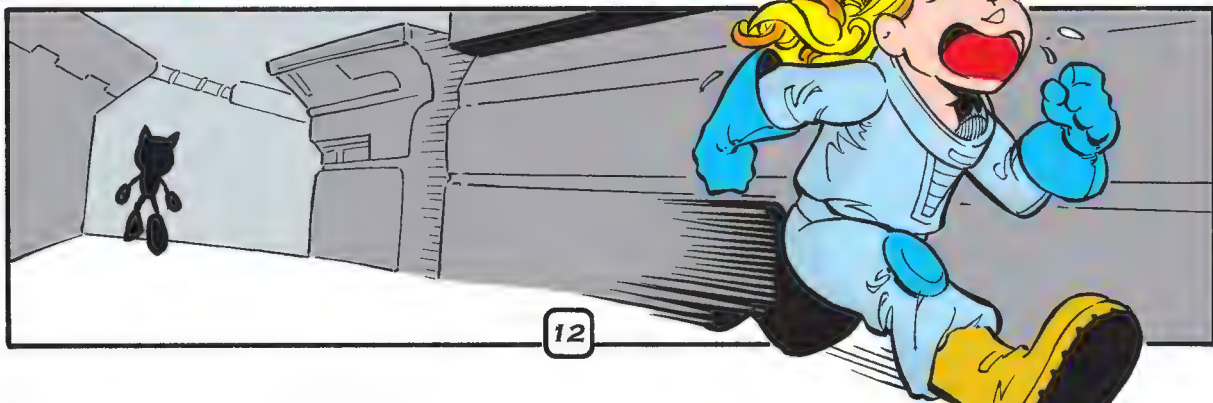
CAN'T HELP IT, THOUGH. I DON'T TRUST UNCLE JULIAN.
I MEAN, LIVING ALL ALONE IN THIS CITY OF ROBOTS, WAY CREEPY.

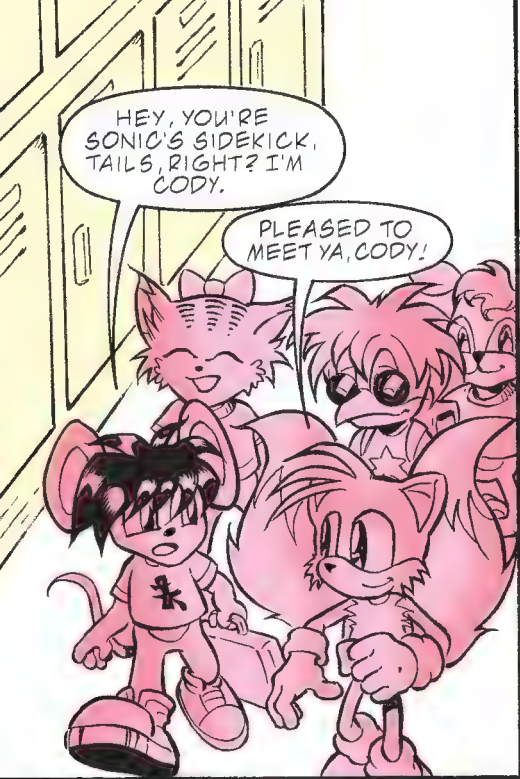


UH-OH! BOTS!
BETTER GET BACK TO MY BEDROOM BEFORE--



YAAAAAEEEEEE!





HEY, YOU'RE SONIC'S SIDEKICK, TAILS, RIGHT? I'M CODY.

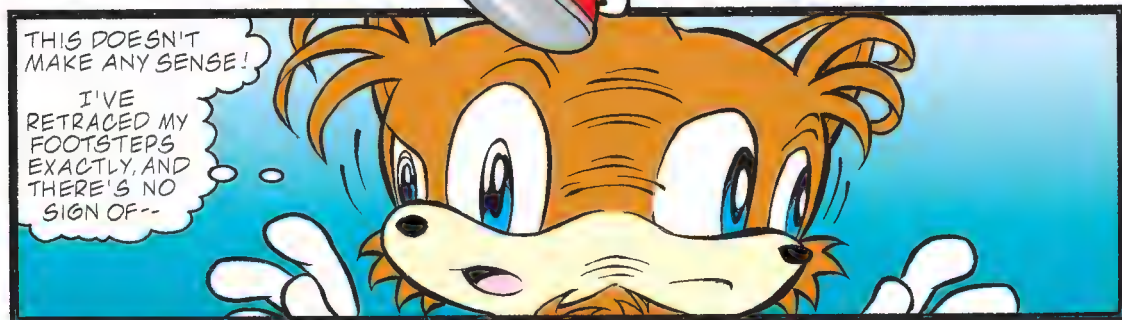
PLEASED TO MEET YA, CODY!



UH-OH! WHERE'S MY BOOKBAG?



GOTTA FIND IT, FAST!



THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!

I'VE RETRACED MY FOOTSTEPS EXACTLY, AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF--

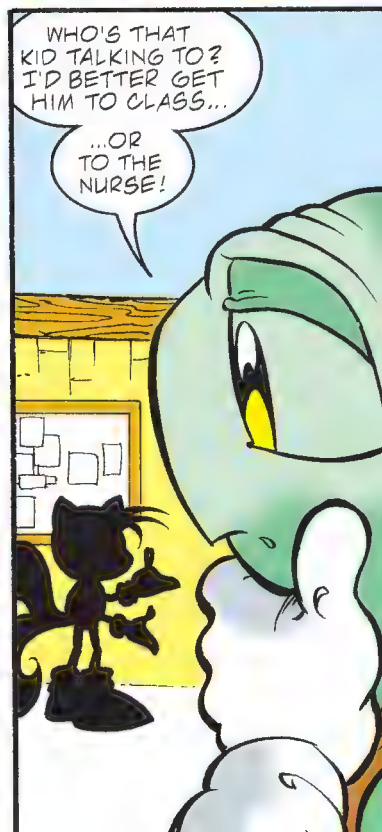


ATHAIR!? WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

YOU SEEN MY BOOKBAG?



NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS, "CHOSEN ONE". YOU ARE NEEDED.

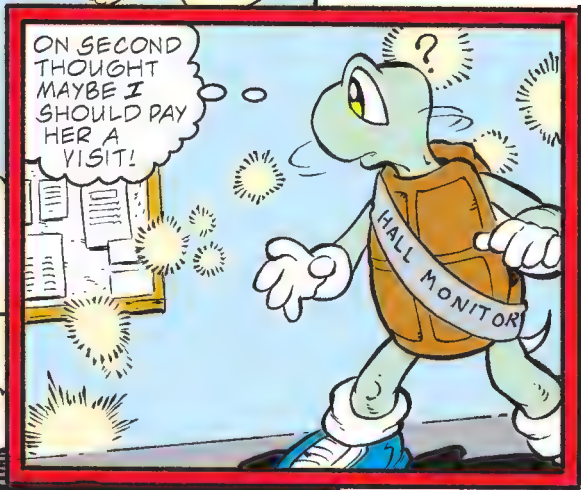


WHO'S THAT KID TALKING TO? I'D BETTER GET HIM TO CLASS...

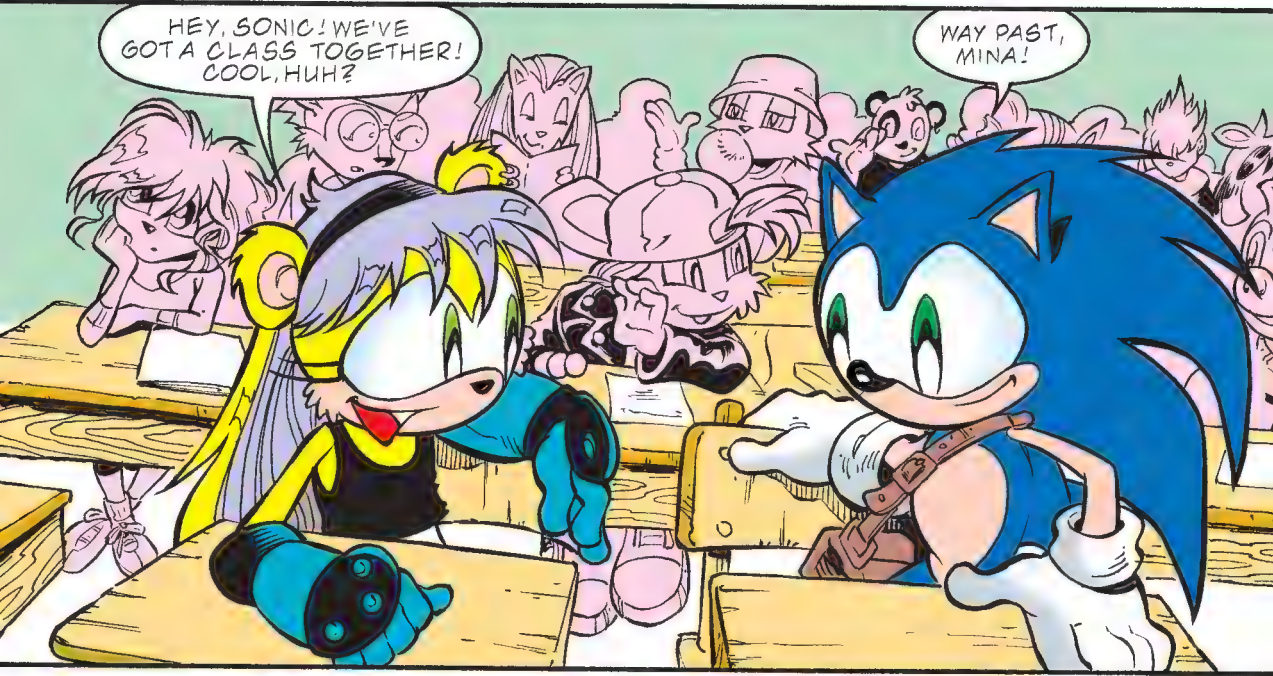
...OR TO THE NURSE!



...BUT, WHAT ABOUT SON--

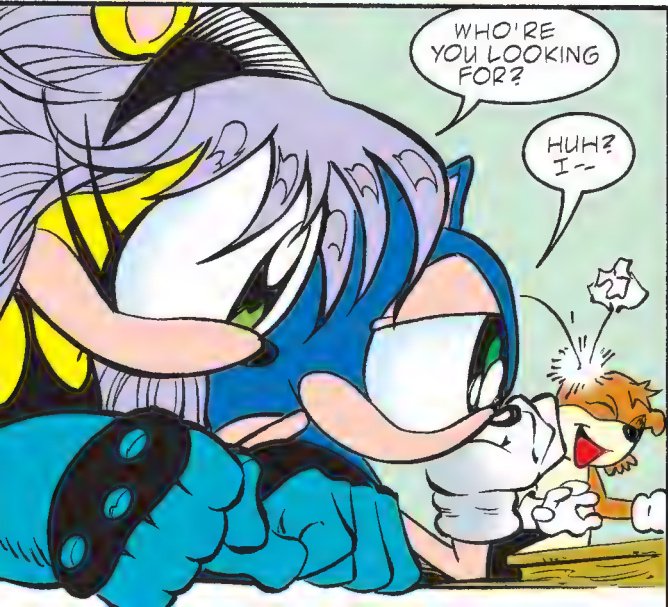


ON SECOND THOUGHT MAYBE I SHOULD PAY HER A VISIT!



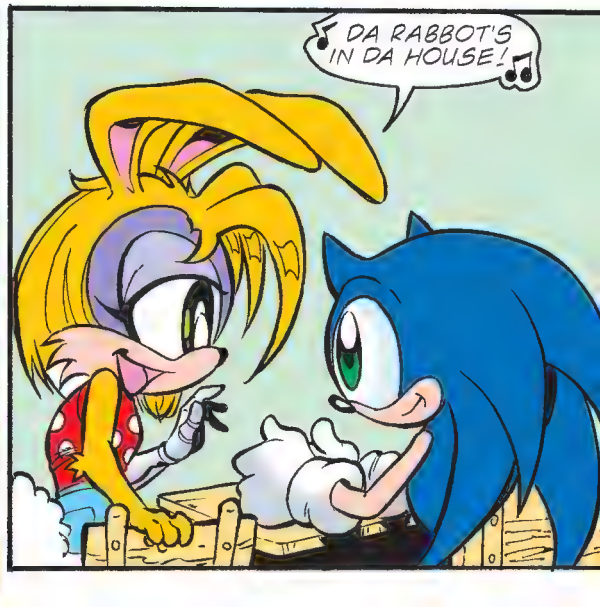
HEY, SONIC! WE'VE GOT A CLASS TOGETHER! COOL, HUH?

WAY PAST, MINA!

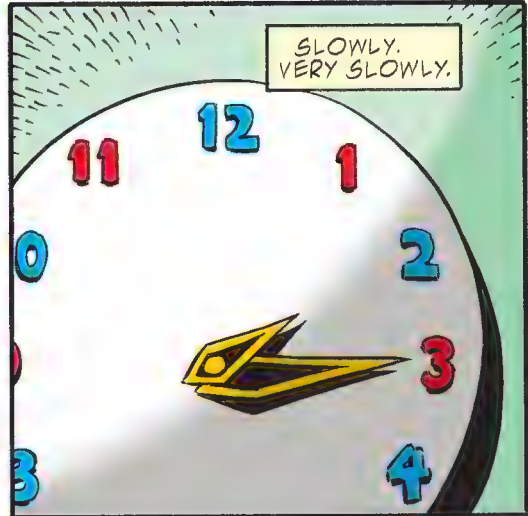
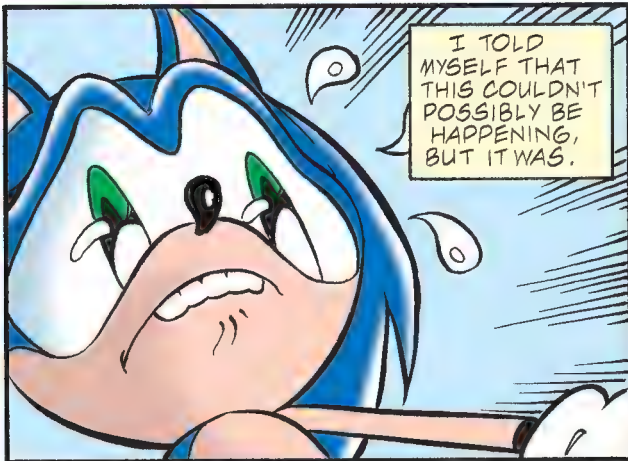
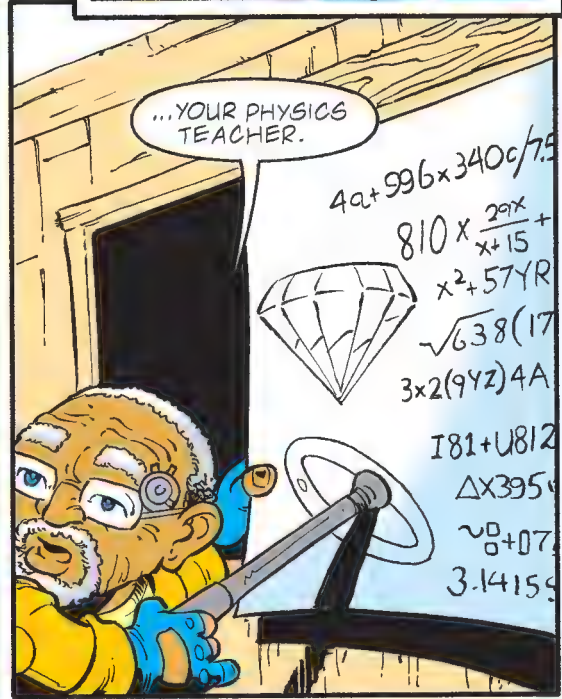
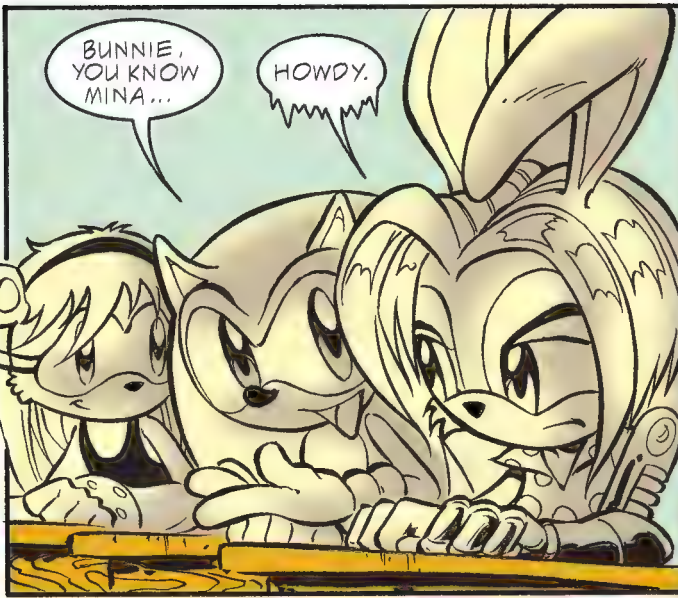


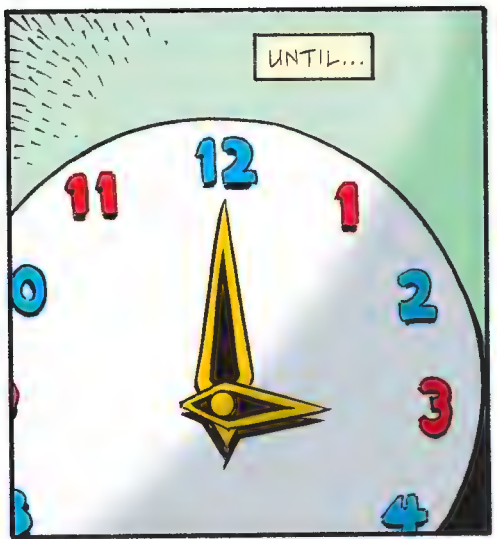
WHO'RE YOU LOOKING FOR?

HUH? I--



♪ DA RABBOT'S IN DA HOUSE! ♪





SONIC, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE PRINCESS IS TO RECEIVE PRIVATE LESSONS AT CASTLE ACORN!



TO BE CONTINUED

Born to the most noble of Echidna houses, the latest to continue the family heritage and responsibility as Guardian of The Floating Island, defender of all against the forces of evil from the world beyond as well as those who would threaten from within!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!**

HAVING BEEN RECRUITED BY THE ECHIDNA HIGH COUNCIL ON ALBION TO TRACK DOWN AND BRING BACK... **KNUCKLES**

NIC THE WEASEL IS SOMEWHAT NONPLUSSED WHEN HER BROTHER TURNS UP EMPTY-HANDED AFTER SHE WITNESSED KNUCKLES [FORCED TO SURRENDER WHEN HIS FRIEND CHARMY BEE AND LOVELY FIANCEE SAFRON WHO WERE THREATENED WITH SERIOUS BODILY HARM] DEPART THE SCENE WITH NACK ONLY MINUTES AGO...

WHOA!

DON'T TELL ME THE ECHIDNA GAVE YOU THE SLIP!

ON THE CONTRARY--I MADE AN EARLY DELIVERY!

GUESS OUR EMPLOYERS COULDN'T WAIT UNTIL WE RETURNED!

WE EVEN GOT A NICE-SIZED BONUS FOR OUR TROUBLE!

WE DID?

THE BEST LAID PLANS...

ANOTHER SEGA-INSPIRED STORY BY
KEN PENDERS (WRITER & INKER) RON LIM (PENCILLER) VICKIE WILLIAMS (LETTERER)
FRANK GAGLIARDO (COLORIST) JUSTIN GABRIE (EDITOR)



JOLLY WELL RIGHT WE DID!

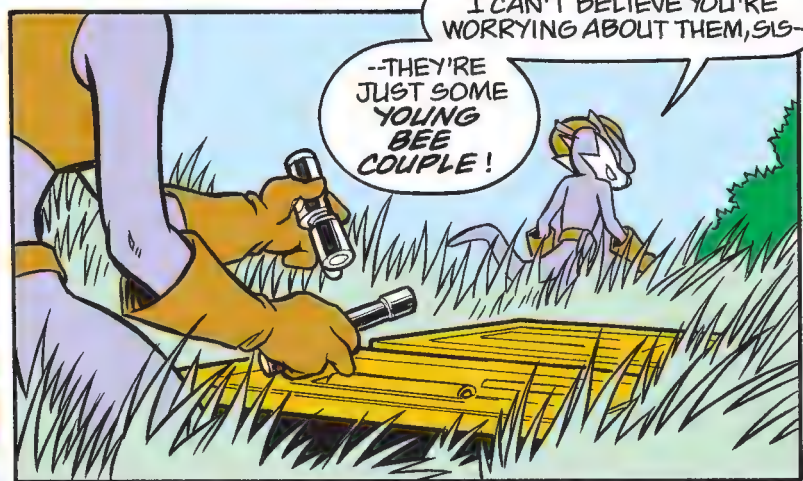
NOW. C'MON-- LET'S BLOW THIS POPSTAND!

WITH LUCK, WE'LL BE BACK IN TOWN TO PARTY HARDY TONIGHT!



WHAT ABOUT THE HAPPY COUPLE?

THINK THEY'RE STILL WHERE YOU LEFT THEM SWEATING IT OUT?



I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE WORRYING ABOUT THEM, SIS--

--THEY'RE JUST SOME YOUNG BEE COUPLE!



"WHAT HARM COULD THEY DO?"

WELL? DO YOU SEE THEM?

I DON'T SEE--HEAR--OR EVEN SMELL--ANY SIGN OF THE WEASEL OR KNUCKLES!



WHICH MEANS WE SHOULD BE IN THE CLEAR AS WELL!

C'MON! WE HAVE TO GO AFTER KNUCKLES!

SHOULDN'T WE GO FOR HELP, FIRST?



THERE'S NO TIME, SAFRON!

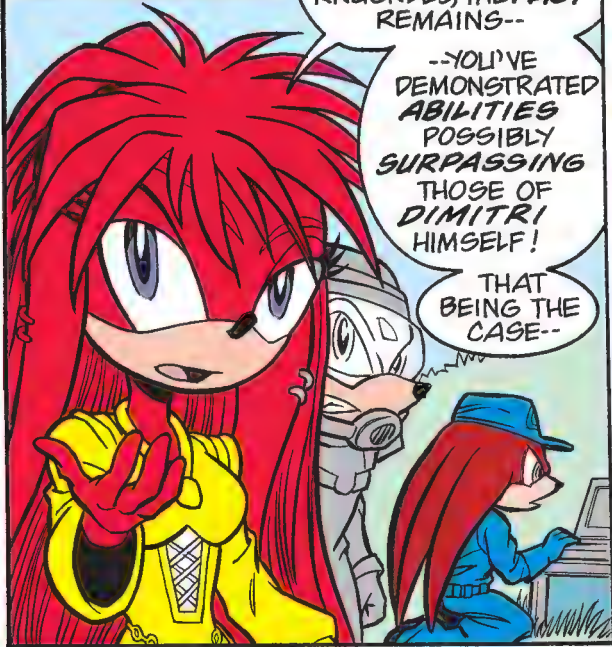
FROM THE SOUND OF THINGS--

"--IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE WE'VE A MOMENT TO SPARE!"

AS MUCH AS I WISH WE COULD AVOID ALL THIS UNPLEASANTNESS, KNUCKLES, THE FACT REMAINS--

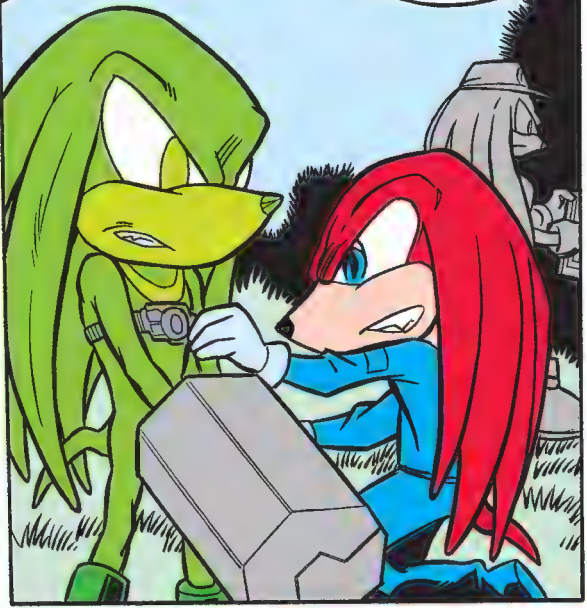
--YOU'VE DEMONSTRATED ABILITIES POSSIBLY SURPASSING THOSE OF DIMITRI HIMSELF!

THAT BEING THE CASE--



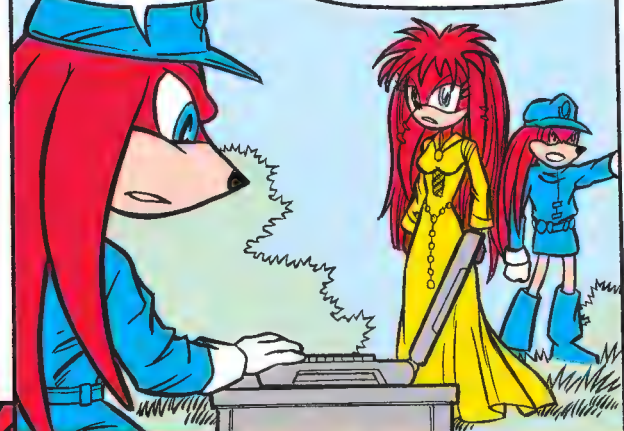
--IT'S UP TO US TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO NULLIFY THAT THREAT--

--INCLUDING RESORTING TO THE USE OF A CHAOS SYPHON ITSELF!



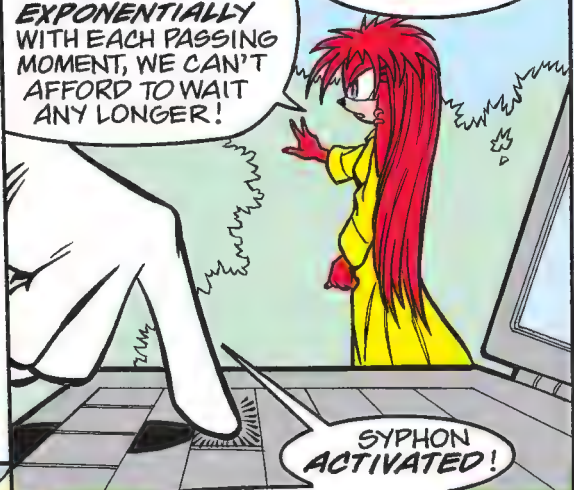
THE UPDATED SET-UP IS JACKED IN AND GOOD TO GO!

THE ONLY X-FACTOR IS HOW WELL KNUCKLES WILL HOLD UP THROUGH THE PROCESS!



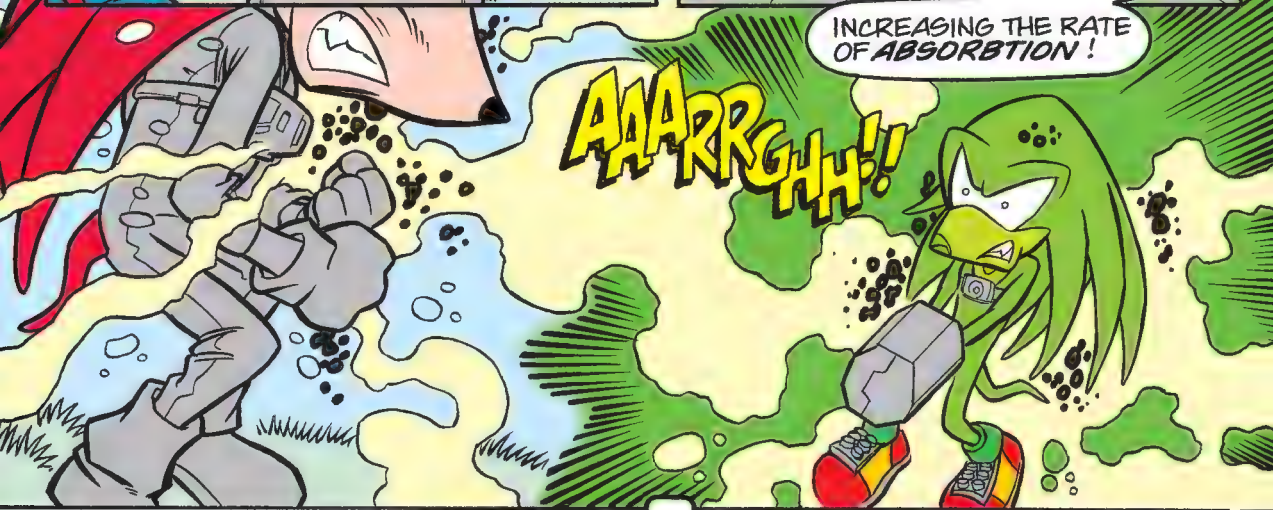
WITH HIS POWER INCREASING EXPONENTIALLY WITH EACH PASSING MOMENT, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT ANY LONGER!

ACTIVATE THE SYPHON!



SYPHON ACTIVATED!

INCREASING THE RATE OF ABSORPTION!

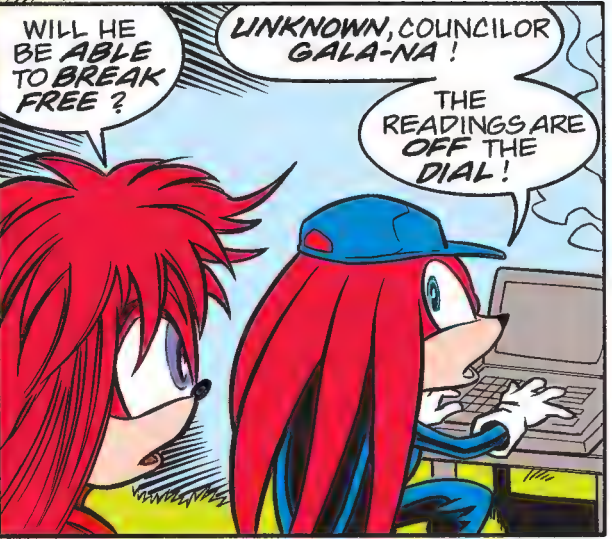


AAARRGH!!



ASTONISHING!!!

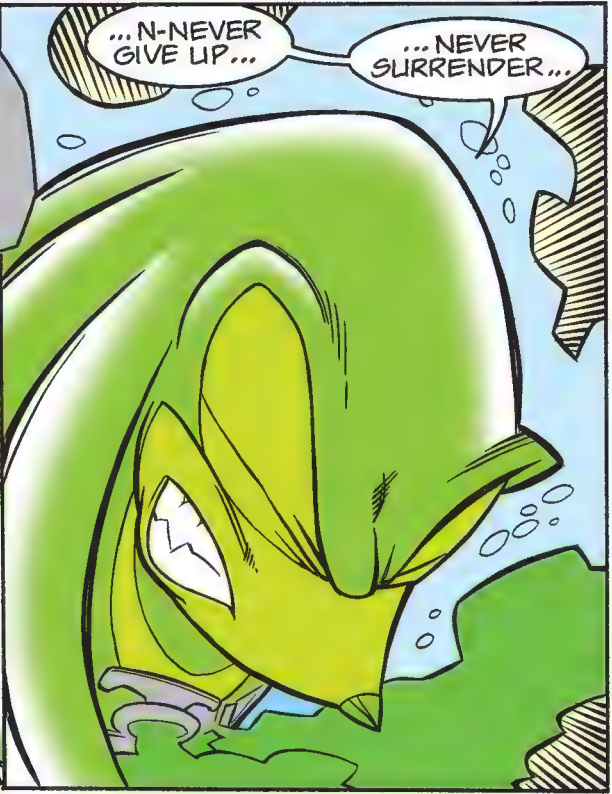
HE'S TRYING TO RESIST!!!



WILL HE BE ABLE TO BREAK FREE?

LINKNOWN, COUNCILOR GALA-NA!

THE READINGS ARE OFF THE DIAL!



... N-NEVER GIVE UP ...

... NEVER SURRENDER ...

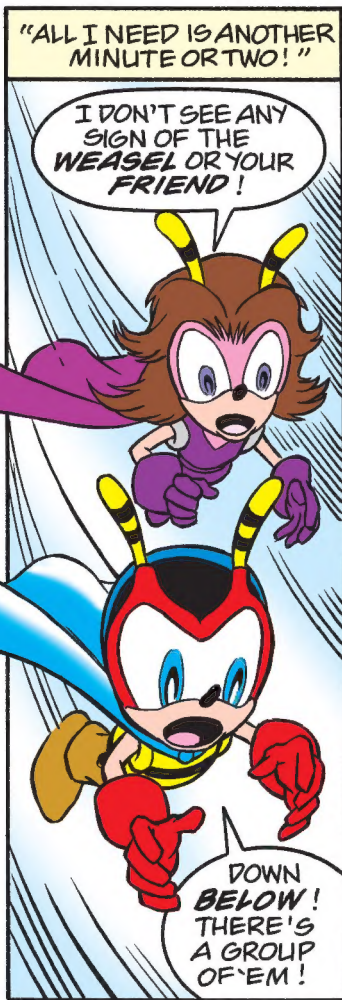


I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS GIZMO I CAN HANDLE!

FEELS LIKE I'M ABOUT TO OVERLOAD!

STAY WITH IT!!

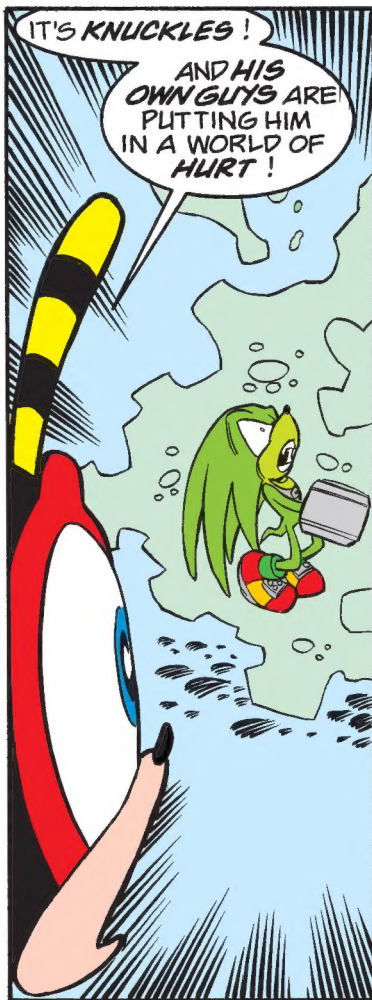
I'M REROUTING THE MATRIX CONDUITS!



"ALL I NEED IS ANOTHER MINUTE OR TWO!"

I DON'T SEE ANY SIGN OF THE WEASEL OR YOUR FRIEND!

DOWN BELOW! THERE'S A GROUP OF 'EM!



IT'S **KNUCKLES!**

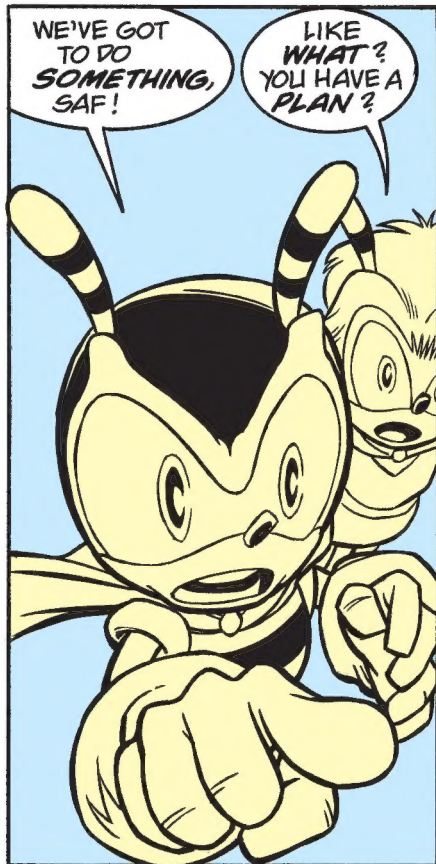
AND HIS OWN GUYS ARE PUTTING HIM IN A WORLD OF HURT!



...ENOUGH ALREADY...

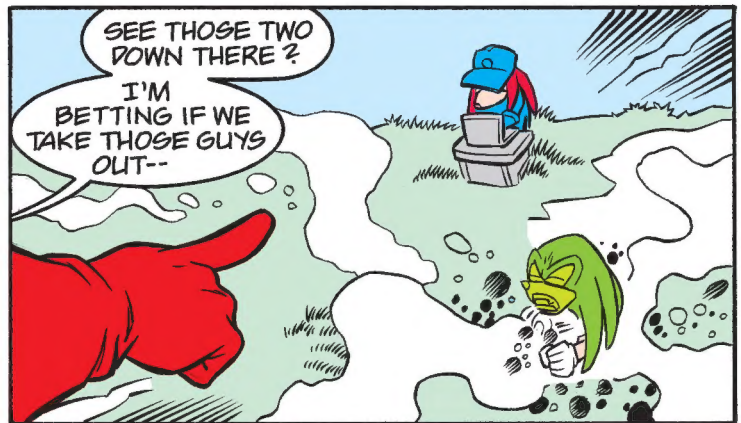
MY MOST SINCEREST APOLOGIES, MY YOUNG FRIEND--

--BUT THE **DANGER** IS TOO GREAT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH YOU!



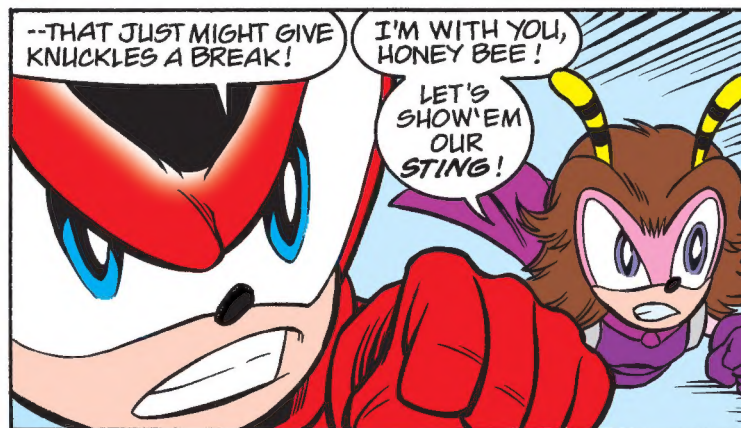
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING, SAF!

LIKE WHAT? YOU HAVE A PLAN?



SEE THOSE TWO DOWN THERE?

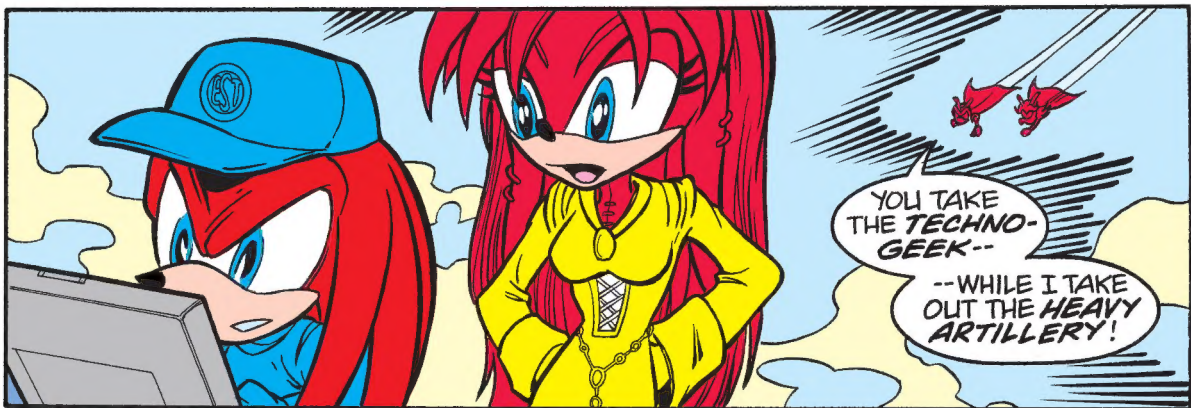
I'M BETTING IF WE TAKE THOSE GUYS OUT--



--THAT JUST MIGHT GIVE **KNUCKLES** A BREAK!

I'M WITH YOU, **HONEY BEE!**

LET'S SHOW 'EM OUR **STING!**

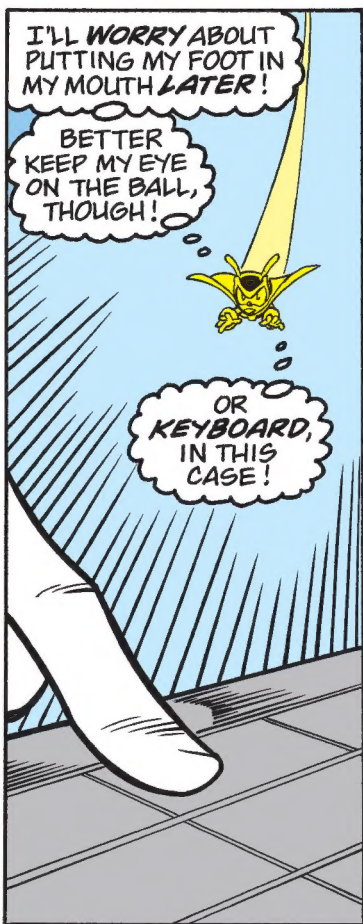


YOU TAKE THE **TECHNO-GEEK**--
 --WHILE I TAKE OUT THE **HEAVY ARTILLERY!**



JUST BECAUSE I'M A **GIRL**--
 --DOESN'T MEAN I CAN'T HANDLE THE **TOUGH JOBS!**

SAF, I DIDN'T MEAN--



I'LL WORRY ABOUT PUTTING MY FOOT IN MY MOUTH **LATER!**

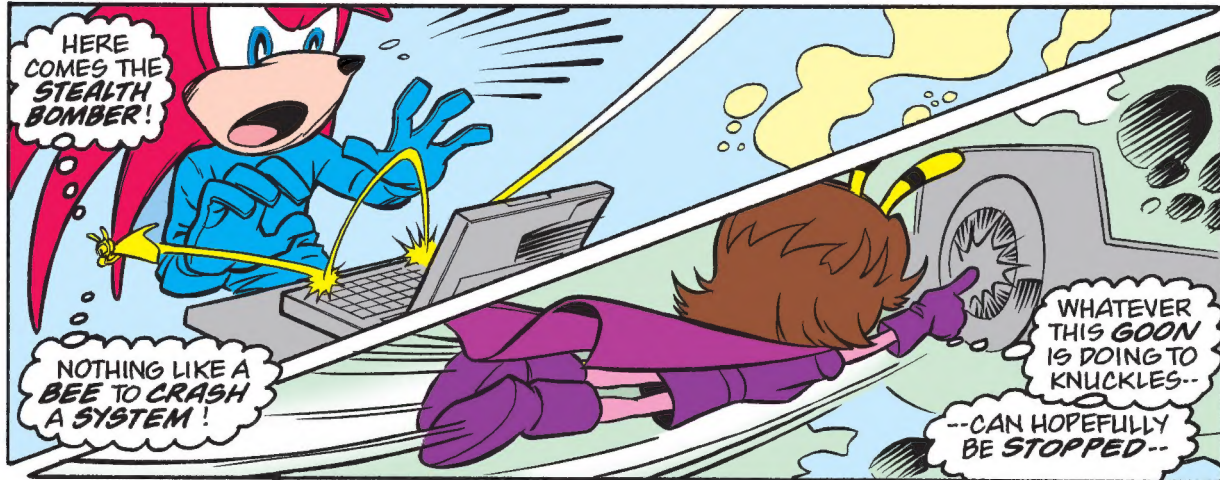
BETTER KEEP MY EYE ON THE **BALL,** THOUGH!

OR **KEYBOARD,** IN THIS CASE!



DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I'LL GET ANOTHER **CHANCE**--

--SO I BETTER GET IT RIGHT THE **FIRST TIME!**

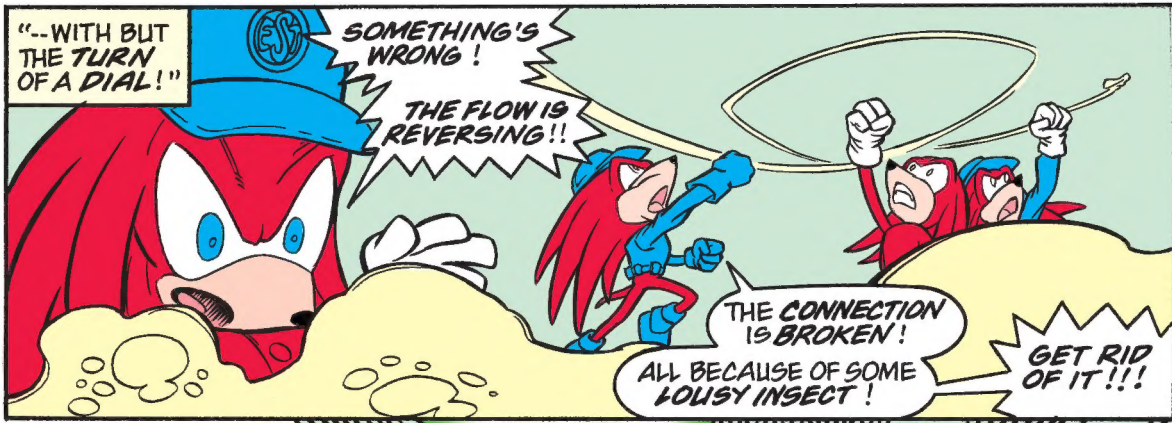


HERE COMES THE **STEALTH BOMBER!**

NOTHING LIKE A **BEE** TO CRASH A SYSTEM!

WHATEVER THIS **GOON** IS DOING TO KNUCKLES--

--CAN HOPEFULLY BE **STOPPED**--



"...WITH BUT THE TURN OF A DIAL!"

SOMETHING'S WRONG!

THE FLOW IS REVERSING!!

THE CONNECTION IS BROKEN!
ALL BECAUSE OF SOME LOUSY INSECT!

GET RID OF IT!!!



IF ANYONE'S GOING DOWN--



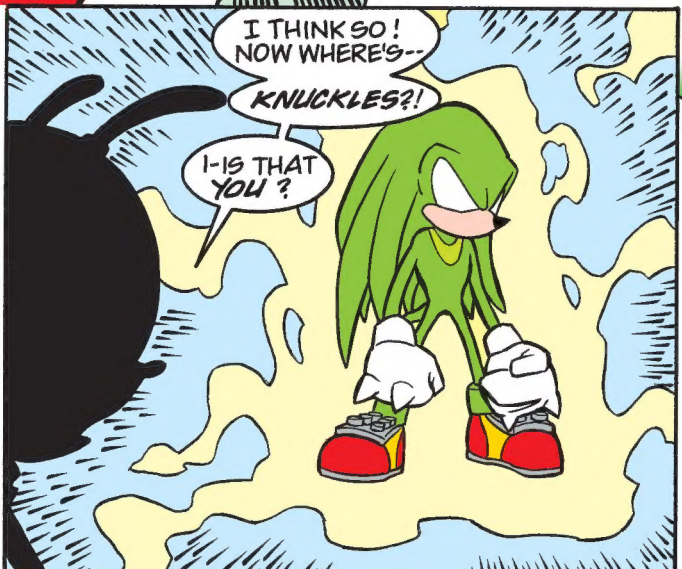
--IT'S YOU GUYS!



...whoa...

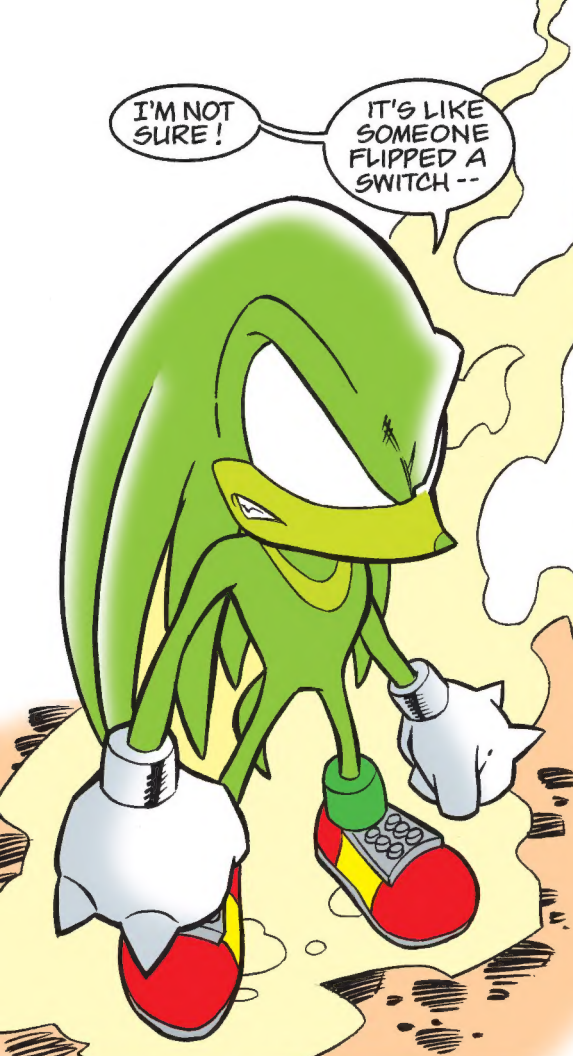
What wall did I slam into?

Charmy... you okay?



I THINK SO! NOW WHERE'S--
KNUCKLES?!

I-IS THAT YOU?



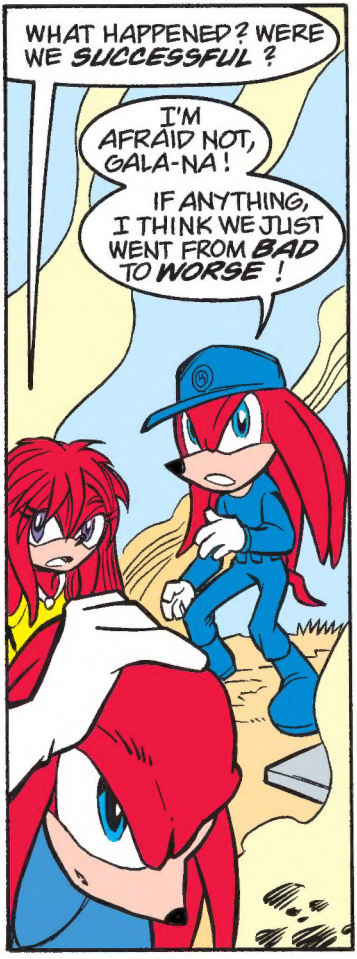
I'M NOT SURE!

IT'S LIKE SOMEONE FLIPPED A SWITCH --



--AND NOW EVERYTHING'S--

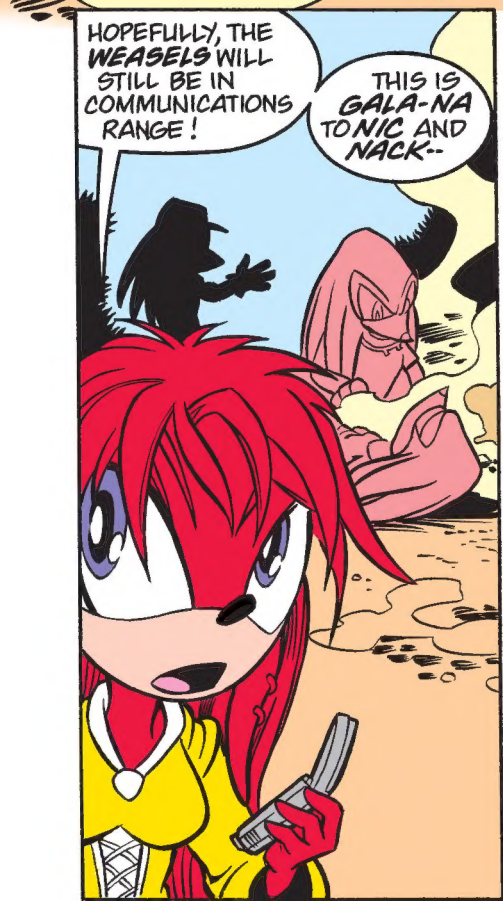
--DIFFERENT--



WHAT HAPPENED? WERE WE SUCCESSFUL?

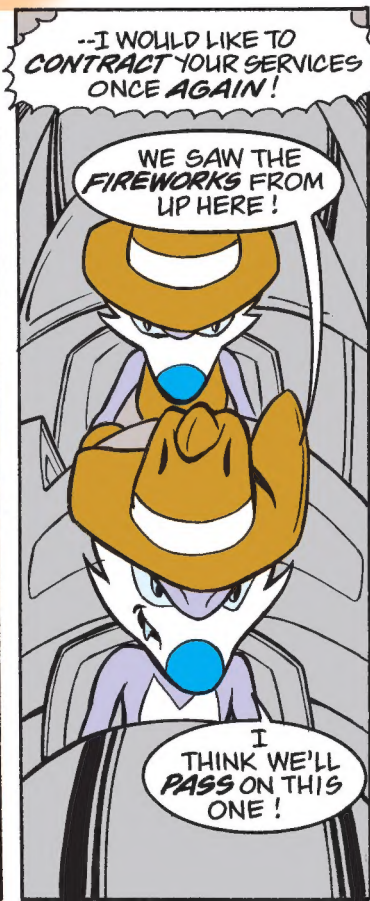
I'M AFRAID NOT, GALA-NA!

IF ANYTHING, I THINK WE JUST WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE!



HOPEFULLY, THE WEASELS WILL STILL BE IN COMMUNICATIONS RANGE!

THIS IS GALA-NA TONIC AND NACK--



--I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRACT YOUR SERVICES ONCE AGAIN!

WE SAW THE FIREWORKS FROM UP HERE!

I THINK WE'LL PASS ON THIS ONE!



NOW WHAT?

NEXT: HOW ABOUT... THE CHOSEN ONE!